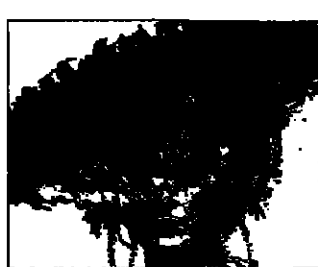


Stanley Matthews at 80

Football's modest magician who still wonders what the fuss was all about, page 44



Fantasy fashion

Iain R. Webb on heavenly collections at Paris, page 13



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THE TIMES



No. 65,179

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1 1995

93094

Document reveals proposals that will alarm Ulster Unionists

Anglo-Irish plan for joint body

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE British and Irish Governments have drawn up a document that brings the prospect of a united Ireland closer than it has been at any time since partition in 1920. The constitutional deal, to be discussed at a summit between John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Taoiseach, is certain to be seen as a sell-out by the Unionist community.

The document obtained by *The Times* reveals:

□ A joint North-South Irish authority with radical executive powers, including the right to deal with Brussels.

□ A declaration of "the birth-right of everyone born in either jurisdiction to be part of the right of the Irish nation".

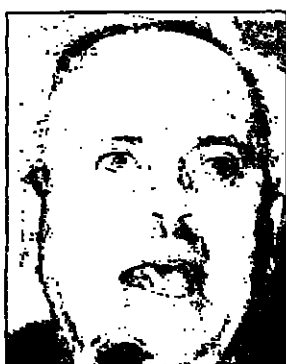
□ The planned "harmonisation" of agricultural, trade, education and health policies.

□ The hope that powers and functions will be extended.

□ According to the draft from sources in Dublin, the body will bring together members of the Irish Government with representatives of the planned devolved Ulster administrative assembly. The new cross-border institution, which will be seen by many on both sides as the engine for the reunification of Ireland, will bring together senior politicians and civil servants from North and South. Membership will be compulsory for the relevant heads of department in each administration.

The executive powers would be sweeping. In the first instance, it would take over "sectors involving a natural, physical all-Ireland framework", and "European Commission programmes and initiatives". The body would make policy "for the whole island in respect of the challenges and opportunities of the European Union".

That responsibility alone would divert considerable sums away from Dublin and the British Government. In 1993, the Republic of Ireland was granted more than £2



Bruton: deal to be discussed at summit with John Major

billions by the EU. Ulster was recently given £240 million by the EU to assist the peace process and will receive an additional £1 billion from Brussels by 1999.

Crucially, the extent of the body's eventual responsibilities is left open-ended. The document states: "The British Government has no limits to impose on the nature and extent of functions in the transferred field." It adds: "The remit of the body should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension of its functions to new areas."

The proposals will form the basis for the resumption of inter-party talks. The outcome will be put to referendums, which both Governments hope will secure the peace. Potentially, they represent the most sweeping constitutional changes to the status of Ulster since 1920.

The blueprint has been under discussion for more than a year and is long overdue. The agreement has yet to be completed but the this version suggests that most of the main elements are in place. The document states the absolute neutrality of the British Government, concerning the constitutional future of Northern Ireland "whether in remaining a part of the United Kingdom or in forming part of a united Ireland". The princi-

ple of consent enshrined in the Downing Street declaration is reiterated.

The proposals for a new North-South body go further even than the 1973 Sunningdale Agreement that led to the Ulster Workers' Council strike the following year. Today's disclosures will alarm many Unionists who were promised by Mr Major last week that the draft would contain "no proposals" for joint authority.

It is understood that relations between the Ulster Unionists and the Northern Ireland Office are at their lowest since the Downing Street declaration and that the Unionist leadership considers itself effectively excluded from the consultative process. Several members of the Cabinet, led by Viscount Cranborne, are warning in private that the proposed deal will never be accepted by the Protestant community in the North.

The document also envisages a constitutional trade-off between London and Dublin. Britain will amend or replace the Government of Ireland Act 1920, which asserts the sovereignty of Parliament in the Province. In return, the Irish Government will introduce proposals for changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's constitution, which embody the territorial claim to the North. This section of the document is less precise, suggesting that the exact terms of the deal have yet to be decided.

The blueprint says that "future structures should afford both communities secure and satisfactory political, administrative and symbolic expression and protection". It is expected that this provision will remove from public servants, judges and policemen in the North the obligation to swear an oath of loyalty to the Crown.

Document details, page 2
Leading article, page 15



The Princess of Wales sporting her new hairstyle at the Lincoln Centre in New York

Princess opts for the 'wet look' in New York

By EMMA WILKINS AND JAMES BONE

THE Princess of Wales has followed in the footsteps of supermodels and pop stars by adopting a new "wet look" hairstyle designed to break with the past.

The princess unveiled the sleek style in New York on Monday night when she attended an award ceremony held by the American fashion industry at the Lincoln Centre. She set off the new hair-do with a navy blue evening dress.

Reaction to the new look was mixed, with some guests muttering that the princess looked as though she had just climbed out of a shower. Others commented that the princess, looking robust and healthy, appeared to have won her battle with bulimia, the slimming disease.

Lauren Hutton, the veteran supermodel, was impressed: "She looked divine — such stature." When one man in the audience shouted, "Move to New York," Ms Hutton called out her agreement: "We want you here," she said.

The hairstyle is the work of Sam McKnight, 39, who has styled the princess's hair for three years and accompanied her on recent visits to Zimbabwe and India.

Mr McKnight, who is based in New York, has worked with Madonna and supermodels Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Helena Christensen. The son of an Ayrshire miner, he does not publicly discuss his work with the princess. But he acknowledges that new styles will be a reflection of the heyday of Hollywood glamour.

"Styles will be much more

groomed with a lot of twenties, thirties, forties and fifties influences, yet with a futuristic overtone," he said.

Jackie Wadson, editor of *Hair* magazine, said: "It is not the Diana we know, but it was time she had a change. Her hair was beginning to look dated," she said.

The princess attended the dinner to present an award to Liz Tilberis, the British editor of the American magazine *Harper's Bazaar*. Praising Ms Tilberis's fortitude in her battle against cancer, the princess said: "She is a lady from my own country who is a dear friend and whose talents and courage have been an inspiration to us all."

The dinner, which was hosted by Veronica and Randolph Hearst — grandson of the original 'Citizen Kane' — was attended by fashion designers Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Ralph Lauren and Isaac Mizrahi. John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the former American President and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, failed to turn up.

While some interpreted his absence as a snub, it is understood that Mr Kennedy may have been called away to a funeral.



The view from the back

Smokers win legal aid in fight against tobacco firms

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE with lung cancer and other diseases blamed on smoking have won legal aid to investigate if they can bring a suit for damages against the tobacco industry.

The decision of the Legal Aid Board to grant support to around 200 people who claim smoking has damaged their health paves the way for what could be first legal action of its kind in this country. If it proceeds, it could lead to possibly the biggest law suit ever.

The decision comes after a two-year fight by law firms to obtain public funds to pursue a claim and after previous applications for legal aid were turned down.

Charles Hopkins, a solicitor with one of the firms, Leigh Day & Co, said: "This is a very important decision. It means we have the legal aid to carry out the initial investigations which has not happened before in this country. We've been working towards this for over two years and if we had failed this time, it is doubtful if any of these cases could have carried on."

The group, which include sufferers from lung cancer and Buerger's disease, will seek to establish that the tobacco companies failed to reduce or eliminate the harmful contents of cigarettes and failed to give adequate warnings of the dangers of smoking.

Amanda Sandford of Action on Smoking and Health, said: "This is excellent news. There are still procedural hurdles to clear, but now there is a good chance that the tobacco companies will be forced to account for the discrepancy between their public stance and what is revealed by their own files on smoking and health." She claimed that leaked papers had shown that at least 30 years ago, the

companies knew there was a link between tobacco smoke and cancer and that nicotine was addictive.

"Yet they are still denying these facts today in an attempt to reassure smokers and deter them from quitting."

The decision to grant legal aid was taken by an independent area committee of the Legal Aid Board made up of lawyers, after hearing representations from the tobacco industry.

Legal aid was applied for in June 1992 and refused. The lawyers on behalf of the group then applied to the Legal Aid area committee which also refused to grant support.

The lawyers then brought judicial review proceedings against the Legal Aid Board in the High Court last summer, where the judges decided to ask the board to review its decision.

Richard Beverley, a senior partner at Freeth Hunt Cartright & Dickens, solicitors in Nottingham said: "The argument is that the tobacco companies should have taken greater steps to reduce or eliminate the tar content from cigarettes. The granting of legal aid recognises that our clients have reasonable grounds for taking court proceedings. This, however, is only the first step. There is a substantial amount of investigative work still to be carried out before any court proceedings could be started."

BAT Industries, which is one of the potential defendants even though it stopped selling cigarettes in Britain in the 1980s, said it would not comment until it has seen the details of the decision.

A spokesman said the legal aid certificates will not necessarily lead to legal proceedings. "It will allow their lawyers to do some preliminary investigations," he said.

The Times

We apologise to readers and newsgroups who did not receive the paper yesterday, or experienced late deliveries. This was due to interruptions in the electricity supply to our Wapping plant.

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Rebels welcome shift on Europe

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY Euro-rebels last night underlined the Government's shift towards Euro-scepticism by declaring that they were "much encouraged" by recent statements on Europe by John Major and other ministers. Eight of the nine "whipless" MPs said in a surprise statement that the "new direction of Government policy" would lead to an improvement in the party's standing.

As senior Conservative friends of the rebels launched

a new bid to bring them back into the fold yesterday, the rebels themselves appeared to be holding out for more from the Government. In their statement they called on ministers to define powers which they would seek to have returned from Brussels to national governments.

The move will provoke further alarm among Conservatives. Continued on page 2, col 6

Business News, page 24

250,000 evacuated as Dutch defences weaken

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIMEGEN

HOLLAND was last night staring in the face of ecological disaster, as 250,000 people were being evacuated in the eastern provinces, engulfed by rising tides of water that are threatening to flood large parts of the lowlands.

The Dutch authorities yesterday ordered the evacuation of 140,000 people in the region of Tiel and Culemborg, 13 miles west of Nijmegen, as the high waters claimed their first victim. One of two people pulled from the river Waal at the village of Winnen died, and the other was taken

to hospital. The latest evacuation order came after 100,000 inhabitants in an adjacent area were forced to leave their homes yesterday morning. While none of the areas are yet under water, the Dutch authorities have ordered the evacuation as a precautionary measure, amid fears that the dikes may not break down and unleash a flood tide that would leave an area of around 400 sq miles more than 16ft under water.

At risk is the region closed in by the rivers Maas and Waal to the west of Nijmegen. Yesterday's evacuation was the largest in Holland since 1953, when 1,800 people died in one of the worst North Sea flooding disasters in

history. There were reports last night that dikes in western Holland were showing the first signs of wear, raising doubts about the stability of dikes elsewhere in the country. A critical point will be reached this morning when flood levels are forecast to reach a peak.

Dikes are protective slopes, made of sand, and placed alongside the river. Their function is to absorb water, similar to a sponge. With continued flooding, dikes become increasingly saturated and run the risk of collapse under the weight of the water, a risk that was increased further by the strong winds. A break even in a single place would open the floodgates to the

vast low-lying areas of eastern Holland.

In a televised address, Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, said that "We live hour by hour with the fears, worries and emotions of tens of thousands of citizens. People are leaving their homes and possessions without knowing how and when they will get back to them."

More than 160 soldiers from the Royal Air Force Regiment based at Laarbruch on the Dutch/German border are helping to bolster defences against the rapidly rising River Maas.

Peter Millar, page 12
Greatest escape, page 10

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Anglo-Irish document

Detailed proposals for Ulster suggest fresh approach

THE JOINT framework document setting out the future of Ulster is far more detailed than was expected. Until recently, officials were saying that the proposals might be fairly modest.

In fact, the late draft seen by *The Times* is just the opposite. In convoluted prose it sets out the means by which the constitutional status of Northern Ireland will be transformed. The document suggests, furthermore, that the British and Irish governments would like to see a rapid settlement.

The purpose of the Downing Street Declaration of December 1993 was to secure Unionist support for the peace process by recognising the need for majority consent in the North. The purpose of the framework document, in contrast, appears to be to ensure the survival of the IRA ceasefire by making sufficient concessions to the nationalist cause. The document envisages a "new approach".

□ **British neutrality:** "Future relationships relating to

■ **Draft London-Dublin proposals, seen by *The Times*, go much further than had expected, Matthew d'Ancona writes**

Northern Ireland," it says, "should respect the full and equal legitimacy and worth of the identity, sense of allegiance, aspirations and ethos of both the Unionist and nationalist communities."

The British Government pledges "rigorous impartiality" in its rule over the Province. "In discharging its responsibility, it will do so in a way which does not prejudice the freedom of the people of Northern Ireland to determine by peaceful democratic means its future constitutional status."

□ **A new cross-border authority:** the document envisages a North-South body involving heads of department on both sides dually established and mandated by legislation in both sovereign parliaments. It will "discharge or oversee delegated

executive, harmonising or consultative functions as appropriate".

Participation in the body would be "a duty of service in relevant posts in the two administrations". Departmental heads in the planned Ulster administrative assembly, in other words, would be obliged to recognise and take part in the new institutions.

□ **Initial powers:** the body will assume immediate executive responsibility for "sectors involving a natural, physical all-Ireland framework". This appears to refer to areas such as transport, communications and minerals.

The new institution would also take over relations with Brussels. In addition, the body will encourage "harmonisation" between North and South of most policy areas ranging from education to agriculture.

□ **Development of the new authority:** The document encourages the body to take over further areas of responsibility: "The result of the body should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension of its functions to new areas. Its role should develop to keep pace with the growth of harmonisation and with greater integration between the two economies."

□ **A constitutional deal:** Britain promises legislative change. "The new approach for Northern Ireland will be enshrined in British constitutional legislation... either by amendment of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 or by its replacement by appropriate new legislation and appropriate new provisions."

In return, the Republic will introduce and support proposals for change in the Irish constitution. "These changes will fully reflect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland... (so) that no territorial claim of right over Northern Ireland contrary to the will of its people is asserted."

The Irish government yesterday delayed moves to free more IRA prisoners in response to the continuing ceasefires. After Cabinet consideration of a list of planned releases, a spokesman said "minor matters" had to be resolved, but said a decision would be taken soon.

Anglo-Irish plan, page 1

BT chief angers doctors with work claim

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE chairman of BT, Sir Iain Vallance, said yesterday that his £663,000-a-year job was tougher than that of a junior hospital doctor.

His remark to a Commons committee that the doctors' job was "relaxing" compared with his prompted strong protests from junior doctors' leaders, who have been campaigning against low pay and long hours.

Sir Iain, who claims to work 70 hours a week as the chairman of Britain's largest private company, restarted the controversy over executive salaries when he was grilled on his pay, benefits, hours and pensions by MPs. He told the all-party Employment Select Committee: "I would quite like a job as a junior doctor in the NHS. It might be relaxing."

He also disclosed that he worked for a day and a half a month as a non-executive director of the Royal Bank of Scotland at an annual salary of £50,000, which MPs immediately calculated was a rate of about £2,800 a day.

MPs on the committee were shocked by Sir Iain's comment about doctors, and a few minutes after making it he said under further questioning that it was a "flip remark" and that "in retrospect I might not have wished to have made it". He insisted that what he had been trying to say was that he worked a



Sir Iain: job tougher than a junior hospital doctor's

"fair number of hours" for his salary package, just as junior doctors did.

Replying to Labour MPs' charges that junior doctors were overworked and underpaid, he said: "I very much hope that they are paid a fair and just reward." Under an agreement reached with the Government after lengthy negotiations, junior doctors by

this year should be working a maximum contracted week of 83 hours — though many are still working considerably in excess of that.

Government figures show that the average earnings for all doctors in Britain are currently about £32,000, £631,000 less than Sir Iain's BT salary package alone.

Job cut waves, page 23

Clark shoe factory closure 'will create a ghost town'

By Andrew Pierce and Robin Barnwell

BRITAIN'S best-known family shoemaker, C & J Clark, announced yesterday that it was shutting one of its West Country factories with the loss of 360 jobs. The factory is the largest employer in Radstock, Avon, a town with a population of 5,000. Some staff had been at the factory since it opened in 1956. Civic leaders feared the decision would turn Radstock into a "ghost town".

Radstock residents blamed a bitter boardroom feud, which has split the company down the middle, for the surprise decision to close the factory. The decision, which was relayed to a mass meeting of staff yesterday, has devastated the tiny town, which is dominated by the Clark family. Some employees wept openly as Dudley Cheesman, the production director, made the announcement. John Iles,

district officer of the National Union of Knitwear, Footwear and Apparel Workers, said: "It will turn Radstock into a ghost town. Where will the youngsters get jobs now? There are more than 3,100 people of working age in the town."

Terence Reakes, chairman of Norton and Radstock town council, said the closure was a disaster. "It is an absolute tragedy. This factory is part of our history. There will be hardly any work left for our people now. After the boardroom battle people lost confidence in the company and the shareholders."

Last year 250 jobs were abolished at the factory, which specialises in children's shoes. Two years earlier the company shed 250 jobs in the neighbouring village of Street, the home of the 167-year-old shoe company. Management

was unable to rule out further job losses in the company, which employs more than 2,000 people in its West Country heartland.

In October 1992 shareholders rejected a boardroom proposal to sell the company to Belford International, which would have marked the end of a British institution. In 1990 the company made a £30 million profit, in 1993 it recorded a loss.

□ **Birmingham City Council,** the highest local authority in England, is making redundant 600 staff from its 50,000 payroll as part of spending cuts of £41 million next year.

Workers were told that the council hoped to achieve the job losses through voluntary redundancies and redeployment. Other planned savings include a £4 million cut in the leisure services budget.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

MV Bottomley surges past dazed penguins

Mrs Virginia Bottomley swept into the Chamber yesterday in black crêpe and a silk scarf, to offer us (as Margaret Beckett observed) "a great many statistics, some of which are correct".

There is something awesome about Virginia Bottomley. She ploughs, relentless, across her field like a reinforced icebreaker smashing its way at full steam through a sea of pack-ice. It is done with no great delicacy but enviable power. Commons penguins look up in wonder from their floes as the MV Bottomley goes crashing past, billowing statistics from her funnels while the ice field cracks before her. The sheer momentum of a Bottomley at the dispatch box astounds.

Yesterday a group of Labour backbenchers tried to block her course. As each rose and was bashed back down, her eyes began to blaze. She looked wildly around the Chamber with a "who's next?" glance — half belligerent, half coquettish.

The Liberal Democrats' Alex Carlisle was presumptuous enough to ask why spending on mental health services was so negligently in London.

Three blasts on the ship's whistle and she was away. She hit him with speciality centres for cancer, with what she called "supervised discharge" and "a more assertive, pro-active approach"... She hit him with hospitals, she hit him with Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, she hit him with sympathy and she hit him with concern. The one thing she did not hit him with was an answer.

Five yards away sat her husband Peter. Mr B stared at Mrs B adoringly throughout. He gritted his teeth when she greeted hers: he glared at her hecklers: he smiled in triumph when she scored. One Bottomley gazed up at another with such bottomless adoration that we felt very sure that

even after all these years, power, among Bottomleys, is still an aphrodisiac.

Only Margaret Beckett remained cool. There is something admirable about the Shadow Health Secretary. She is quite unimpressed by all this, and faintly amused by the Health Secretary's presumption. She glances at Virginia storming away, as might a rather quiet, competent senior girl at a showy performance by a hockey-team prima donna. From time to time and without histrionics she unpicks a statistic Mrs Bottomley has brandished, or reminds her of a question she is avoiding.

After an unsuccessful campaign for the Labour leadership which (in your sketchwriter's view) diminished Mrs Beckett not at all, she has been given a portfolio which cannot have been her first choice, and, without fuss, applied herself to it with care and thoroughness.

Beckett makes perceptive, original speeches about the computer-simulated virtual reality world of Mrs Bottomley's "internal health market" and its not-quite-real factoids; and she dogs the Tory health team with insistent, courteous but unimpressed inquiries.

Yesterday she told the Health Secretary that waiting lists were getting longer. Terry Lewis (Lab, Worsley) supported her: "There's even a waiting list to get on to the waiting list," he said.

"And there's a waiting list to get on to that," added Kevin Hughes (Lab, Doncaster N): you wanted to see the consultant who waited for the waiting list.

That made three lists. "There's a further waiting list," said John Marek (Lab, Wrexham). Someone he knew had been turned away because the operating theatre was busy, and told to return another day.

"Any advance on four?" called Dennis Skinner.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs examine secret Gulf War vaccines

The Ministry of Defence will come under pressure today to declassify a secret document handed in confidence to a Commons committee which reveals the "cocktail" of vaccines given to servicemen fighting in the Gulf War. MPs on the Commons Defence Committee are starting an investigation today into the so-called Gulf War syndrome which has allegedly affected more than 500 veterans of the 1991 conflict. The war veterans are suing the MoD, claiming that the injections damaged their health.

Calf flights resume

Farmers resumed airlifting calves to the Continent yesterday from Coventry airport after a High Court judge refused an appeal by Coventry City Council to ban livestock flights. Nearly 200 calves were flown to Amsterdam by Phoenix Aviation, the company whose leased Boeing 737 crashed near the city's airport on December 21.

Siege police charges

Two senior police officers are to face disciplinary charges relating to the shooting of Ian Fitzgerald, 39, during a siege at his manor house near Diftford, south Devon, in October 1993. An inquest in December found that Mr Fitzgerald, a farmer, was lawfully killed. The Crown Prosecution Service will not bring criminal charges.

New meningitis death



Hayley Woodward, left, has become the latest child victim of meningitis. The six-year-old died in hospital after being sent home from school complaining of a headache. At least six children have died from bacterial meningitis, or its complications, since Christmas. Letters are going to parents of pupils at Hayley's school, All Saints primary in Coventry, warning them to watch for flu-like symptoms.

Poison charges dropped

Dr Paul Agutter, 48, of Athelstanford, Lothian, who denies attempting to murder his wife by poisoning her, had some other charges dropped yesterday. The Crown at the High Court in Edinburgh withdrew a charge of attempting to murder a girl and attempting to cause injury to people who drank poisoned tonic water. The trial continues.

Times law prize winner

A student with a degree in Russian studies took first prize in *The Times* Law Awards yesterday. Iain Pester, 23, reading law at Merton College, Oxford, came top of 150 entries with his essay on "How can civil justice system satisfy its consumers?" Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, presented the cheque for £3,000. Law, page 34

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Fears of timetable cuts as rail sell-off details emerge

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE Government was accused of paving the way for deep cuts in rail services across southern England and South Wales yesterday after it announced minimum service requirements for four key rail operators after privatisation.

Opposition parties, transport lobby-groups and trade unions joined forces in a storm of protest after Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, and Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, unveiled the proposed terms of the first tranche of rail franchises.

The four services — Gatwick Express; Great Western; London Tilbury and Southend; and South West — are the first of 25 franchises to be auctioned to private operators from early next year.

The minimum service requirements announced yesterday represent 55 per cent of the current service on Gatwick Express, 80 per cent on Great Western, and 90 per cent on South West trains and the London Tilbury and Southend line.

Labour accused the Government of going back on previous pledges that guaranteed

services would be maintained at existing levels after privatisation.

However, in the Commons John Major insisted that the private sector intended to "exercise their freedom to increase services" rather than cut them.

The sharpest reductions in the minimum level of service will be on the Gatwick Express service, where the required frequency between the airport and Victoria station will be two trains an hour most of the day compared with the current four an hour.

While London commuter services have been largely protected, the minimum service on Inter-City lines to Southampton and Portsmouth on the south coast, Bristol, Bath, and Penzance are also well below current levels.

The daily Irish boat-train to Fishguard and through trains from London to Carmarthen have not been included in the minimum service specification, leaving them exposed to being dropped by private operators.

However, Dr Mawhinney branded written pledges

from the heads of each of the four companies currently running the franchises that the current services will be maintained or increased next year.

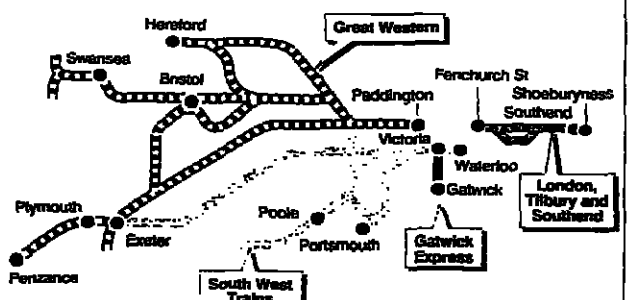
He also insisted that the reduced minimum service requirements would lead to more, not fewer, trains. "Cuts are not the name of the game," he said.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "I expected cuts, but I did not expect cuts on this scale."

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT rail union, said it was "absolute nonsense" for the Government to pretend it was just laying down minimum standards. "We all know that in many parts of the country the minimum will become the maximum and train services will be lost for ever."

Lew Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union Aslef, said: "You can kiss the private railway goodbye. Inviting private-sector train operators to provide a minimum level of service will inevitably lead to a diminished timetable and greater inconvenience to rail travellers."

FIRST FOUR FRANCHISED LINES



Route from London	now	May 95
Gatwick Express	4	2
2 trains 3pm-7pm, 4pm at other times		
Great Western	80 per day	17
Reading	2	1
Bath	2	1
Penzance	6	1
London, Tilbury and Southend	4	2
Shoeburyness	2	1
South West Trains	3	1
Portsmouth	2	1
Southampton	1	1

Business News, page 24

I could see her in the flames, PC tells arson trial



PC Hall: "Her hair and face were aflame"

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN broke down yesterday as he described to a court the moment a jealous husband set his wife on fire. "The air in the room was on fire," PC George Hall said. "It was impossible to breathe. Everything was ablaze. I could see her in the flames, her hair and her face were on fire. Her body was on fire, she just seemed to be melting."

PC Hall, who was badly burnt himself and was off work for 10 weeks, was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of Leslie Beattie, 35, who has denied attempting to murder his wife Michelle. He also denies arson with intent to endanger life. Although he admits pouring petrol around her, he claims that a lighter he was holding

went off accidentally as police broke into the room. Mrs Beattie, 31, was permanently disfigured in the fire in their home in Cramlington, Northumberland, in December 1993, and wears a surgical mask for 23 hours a day to protect her scarred face.

PC Hall described to Durham Crown Court how he and two colleagues had answered an emergency call to the house. "We ran upstairs, there was a strong smell of petrol. The bedroom door opened slightly and I heard the man say 'you're wasting your time lads' then the door shut."

He heard a woman scream and they kicked the door down. "I rushed in and saw a man with a petrol can. He was throwing petrol around the room. I tried to pin his arms to his sides but he pushed me back. The next thing I

recall was seeing flames close to my feet. They were coming towards me on the floor along the walls. Everything was in slow motion. Then the room just exploded."

At that point in his evidence the constable broke down and Mrs Justice Laws offered him time to gather his thoughts. After a deep breath he continued. "I was trying to get away from the flames and told myself 'I have to get out of here', but the door was shut and I was trapped in the room. I was trying to open the handle but someone was putting pressure on it from the other side. I realised if I did not get out there and then I was going to die. I turned to run and jump out of the window but Mrs Beattie was lying there blocking my way. I was on fire too but managed to jerk the door open.

I ran to the bathroom and threw water over myself. The house had turned into an inferno by this stage.

"I wanted to go back into the room to get Mrs Beattie because I thought she was still in there. I ran downstairs. I saw Mrs Beattie had managed to get out and was in the living room. I was so relieved she had escaped."

The jury has already heard that the couple were planning to divorce after she began an affair with Graham Walton, a colleague at the Department of Social Security in Newcastle upon Tyne, where she worked. Mr Beattie told police after the fire that he was simply trying to draw attention to his plight and wanted to create a "siege situation". He said: "I didn't want to harm her. I still care about her."

The trial continues.

"We don't regret a minute and would do it all again if we had the chance"

Elusive ladies say life on the run was long holiday

By LIN JENKINS AND BILL FROST

TWO widows in their seventies who became known as Britain's most wanted pensioners told of their glamorous life on the run yesterday and vowed never return to their families.

Winifred Bristow, 76, and her 74-year-old sister Joan Payne, who were both questioned by police investigating claims of unpaid hotel bills and forged cheques, said: "It was just like one big long holiday. We don't regret a minute of it and would do it all again if we had the chance."

The sisters were the subject of a bizarre hunt after they disappeared from their home

in East Grinstead, West Sussex, in May 1992 after telling relatives they were taking a short holiday. They were finally tracked down this week to a rented holiday cottage in the quiet Suffolk village of Hessel, near Bury St Edmunds.

Their companion Angela Dodge, 51, who is wanted by police investigating an alleged £30,000 string of frauds, had already left the cottage with her 11-year-old daughter. She told the sisters that she was going to find a new home for them.

"She has been a very good friend to us," Mrs Payne said last night. Mrs Bristow agreed: "We used to spend all our time knitting and reading. But we have had the time of our lives for the past three years and it's all due to her. We just want a place of our own to settle down and live our own lives like we have for the past three years. I know our family want us to come home but they are wasting their time. We will never return to our old life in East Grinstead."

The pair said they were introduced to Mrs Dodge by their nephew. "We hit it off with Angela straight away and her little girl was just adorable," Mrs Bristow said.



Cards on the table: Joan Payne, left, and Winifred Bristow at the cottage to which they were traced in Suffolk

"She told us she had been widowed twice and had a high-powered job running the North Terminal at Gatwick airport. She used to take us out to nice restaurants. She would really make a fuss of us."

Mrs Bristow went on: "Then one day she said she was moving to the West Country to start a new life. We were heartbroken, but she said we could come and spend weekends with her."

Subsequently the pair were

booked into a luxury hotel and Mrs Dodge insisted on paying the bill. "We used to have breakfast in the hotel every day and sometimes we all had dinner there in the evening. We were having a lovely time," Mrs Bristow recalled.

"But everything changed the day our younger sister Ruth, who is 70, tracked us down and tried to make us return to East Grinstead. We didn't want to go back and wanted to run our own lives.

That was really where it all started."

The sisters began a tour of expensive hotels and rented country homes which was to take them from the West Country to North Wales, Scotland and the Irish Republic.

"We were having a whale of a time and had no idea there was anything wrong," Mrs Bristow said.

The grandmothers were interviewed by police at the small, two-bedroom cottage

yesterday. Detective Constable Barry Woodley, the officer who led the hunt for them, said: "The old ladies aren't being particularly co-operative, but they said that Mrs Dodge got a bus to Cambridge last Thursday."

"We have no plans to charge them. The rent on the bungalow is paid up until the weekend so they aren't homeless, although they've only got a few quid left and the carnival is over for them now."

Banned driver 'killed girl of 6'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DRIVER who had been disqualified drove off after knocking down and killing a girl aged six and injuring her sister as they crossed a road, a court was told yesterday.

Gary Howarth, 31, was at the wheel of what was effectively a stolen van when he hit Tracy Kennedy and her four-year-old sister Sonia as they stepped from behind parked cars near their home in Bolton, Preston Crown Court was told.

David Sumner, for the prosecution, said Mr Howarth had been parked in the street in the Ford Fiesta diesel van one

evening last May and drove off at a speed "in excess of that required from a careful and competent driver". The girls stepped from behind a parked car into the path of the van, and Tracy suffered injuries from which she died shortly afterwards. Sonia received a broken leg.

Mr Sumner told the court: "The evidence will be the defendant stopped briefly. He maybe looked back or maybe he didn't, we don't know. It was the briefest of pauses, then he carried on his way. The defendant was to tell the police later the reason why he didn't stop and immediately render assistance was because

he was a disqualified driver." Mr Howarth, of Farnworth, Bolton, pleaded not guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. Mr Sumner said Mr Howarth admitted to having convictions for aggravated vehicle taking and driving while disqualified.

Mr Sumner said the van struck Sonia, a "glancing blow". It travelled 88ft before leaving Tracy on the road. "That is a considerable distance... The prosecution say the distance is compelling evidence of the speed at which it was being driven."

Mr Howarth had told police he had panicked and driven off. But he had told police a

"watered down" version. "He lied consistently, one lie after another designed to cover up that he knew perfectly well his driving was dangerous."

The girls' father, Ron Kennedy, said they had finished tea and wanted to go out to continue playing. In a statement read to the court he said: "I told them they could go out until seven but to be careful crossing the road."

A few seconds later he heard Sonia crying and saw her lying in the road. Then someone shouted. Tracy had been run over. "I carried Sonia to where Tracy was lying about 50 yards away."

The case continues.

Store withdraws violent storybook

By ANDREW PIERCE

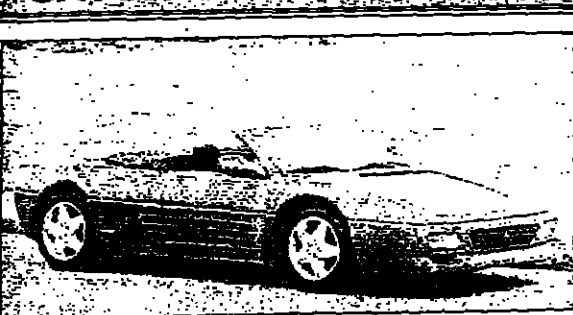
A CHILDREN'S book has been withdrawn by Sainsbury's because it contained references to gangland-style violence. *Abigail at the Beach* may sound innocent enough, but parents objected to the antics of the fictional child and her beer-swilling father.

Any children who dared interfere with Abigail's sandcastle were warned by her father that he would hang them upside down by the heels. Some parents refused to read on when she boasted that he was

in the Mafia and would break a boy's arms if he ruined her castle. Abigail told a girl that her daddy was a Marine who would shoot her dog if she went near the sandcastle.

Sainsbury's has only had four complaints. "When we bought the book we thought it was tongue-in-cheek but we have looked at it again and decided it is unsuitable," a spokeswoman said. The book, by Felix Pirani, is published by Diamond Books, the bargain section of HarperCollins.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Fast, glamorous and free

WIN A WEEKEND TRIP FOR TWO TO THE PERFORMANCE MOTOR SHOW



PLUS: THE MAGAZINE, WEEKEND, WEEKEND MONEY AND VISION, THE 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE

THE SIX SECTION TIMES IS 30p ON SATURDAY

Dentist in overdose case freed by judge

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DENTIST whose "gross negligence" killed an elderly patient was set free yesterday after being found guilty of manslaughter.

Mr Justice Garland gave Stephen Stuart, 46, a nine-month prison sentence, but suspended it for a year, saying there was no need for a deterrent sentence. The family of the victim, 68-year-old Marie Everitt, who died of a massive overdose of anaesthetic, said they bore Mr Stuart "no ill will".

Mrs Everitt, a retired school cleaner, went to Stuart's surgery in Market Drayton, Shropshire, to have all 28 of her remaining teeth extracted. Stuart admitted he gave her 16 cartridges of two types of anaesthetic. The manufacturer's recommended maximum dose for a woman of her age was one and three-fifths cartridges. Mrs Everitt started twitching and died an hour later in the surgery.

Jonathan Caplan, for Stuart, told the court that the dentist would almost certainly never practise again.

Brando comeback in British film

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MARLON BRANDO is close to taking a lead role in a British film in what is being seen as a renaissance of his career.

The part of a priest in *Divine Rapture*, a romantic black comedy, is one of several major roles for the star of *The Godfather* and *On the Waterfront*. His last big films, *Tango in Paris* and *Apocalypse Now*, date from the 1970s. For years he has taken only cameo roles.

The budget for *Divine Rapture*, at about £8 million, is relatively low. It is being produced by Barry Navidi and Denham Burger, who first worked together on *Mr Corbett's Ghost* with John Huston and Paul Scofield.

Brando is believed to have set aside two four-week filming periods in the spring or autumn. The film co-stars Debra Winger. Brando will play a priest who divides the church and local village with his efforts to make a saint of a woman who miraculously comes back from the dead. The film will be shot in Ireland, which for Brando, who has Irish blood, was one

of the production's greatest attractions.

The actor has just finished filming the £35 million drama *Don Juan DeMarco* and the *Centrefold*. According to *Variety*, he may go to Australia in the autumn to play the title character in the remake of *The Island of Dr Moreau*. Losing weight may be linked to his comeback. When his memoirs were published last summer, it was said that he had slimmed from 25 stone to 17 stone, on doctor's orders. He vowed to continue down to 13 stone.



Brando: return linked to loss of weight

Coroner criticises Army over inquiry

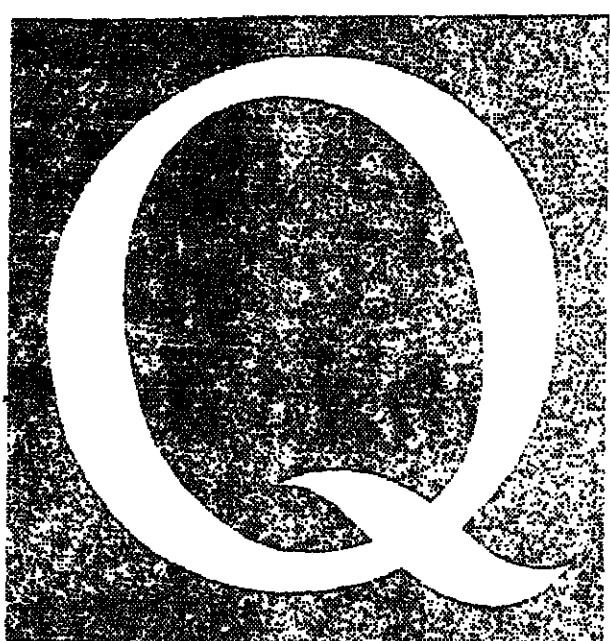
By A STAFF REPORTER

A CORONER accused the Army yesterday of bungling an investigation into the death of a soldier crushed by an armoured personnel carrier.

At the inquest at Poole, Nigel Neville-Jones ordered the Army to carry out an inquiry into the death of Private Marc Smith, 25, of Parkstone, Dorset. He demanded that the Army's director of legal services, Major General Anthony Rogers, appear before him to say why it had only just been decided not to prosecute four soldiers on manslaughter charges, eight months after the incident. The coroner also asked why soldiers waiting to give evidence had not had the opportunity until Monday to take legal advice.

Private Smith, of the Devon and Dorset Regiment, died at the British Army Training Unit in Suffield, Canada. It was understood he died after a collision between a Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicle and a Land Rover in which he was a passenger. The hearing was adjourned until today.

New issue OUT NOW!



"I was as Bohemian as you get in Essex"



If you thought Blur were just the latest laddish sensation, join us as we delve into their secret history... A labyrinthine tale of bagpipes, the Ayatollah, jazz-punk, and Humpty Dumpty. It's all in this month's Q.

Q FEATURES

R.E.M., Portishead, Go-Go's, The Beautiful South, Top Of The Pops, Spinal Tap and what the kids (the real kids: eight year olds) think of rock.

Q REVIEWS

Del Amitri, The Smiths, The Monkees, John Lee Hooker and more besides. ★★★★★



Out now!

Read it in Q like other magazines do

Law Society says that fees charged by QCs for legal aid work are out of control

Trial of Maxwells likely to cost public over £10m

By FRANCES GIBB AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE cost to taxpayers of the fraud trial due to start in April involving Kevin and Ian Maxwell is likely to exceed £10 million, lawyers and MPs predicted yesterday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, disclosed on Monday night that the total legal aid sum paid out so far to lawyers representing the two brothers and other defendants facing trial had reached £4,028,008, including VAT.

Costs are still rising and further amounts of public money, some of it more legal aid, will be run up when the trial, expected to be the most expensive this century, begins on April 18. The figures prompted accusations yesterday from solicitors, who pointing to the high "uncontrolled" fees of leading counsel in legal aid cases.

Henry Hodge, deputy vice-president of the Law Society, said that solicitors' criminal fees were now tightly controlled by hourly rates. But Queen's Counsel charged rates at the "legal aid market rate". He added: "This is the last area of the legal profession that is really out of control. The fees are not as great as rates charged for private work, but they are still high. There are guidelines on what they should charge, but these are regularly flouted in an estimated 50 per cent of cases."

Lord Mackay disclosed in his figures that some hundred barristers received more than £100,000 (inclusive of VAT and travelling expenses) from civil legal aid in 1993-94. But Peter Birts, QC, of the Bar's legal aid committee, rejected the Law Society's criticisms and said that counsel's fees had to be approved by the

court. Taxing masters, who undertook that task, were "regularly pushing down levels of legal aid fees", he said.

The fees were based on what was appropriate for the size and complexity of the case. With the Maxwell brothers, that would be at the top end of what was allowed, he added. For defending counsel, a brief fee of £100,000 would be likely, while the solicitors and barristers in the prosecuting team, who were briefed by

or have been involved in preparation over the past two and a half years in the Maxwell brothers' fraud trial, including Kingsley Napley, Peters & Peters and Timmuss, Sainer & Dechert.

When it comes to trial, leading and junior counsel are likely to be briefed for each defendant. George Carman, QC, has already represented Kevin Maxwell before a parliamentary select committee.

Crown Court trials cost £7,600 a day in public funds, according to the Lord Chancellor's Department. That breaks down as £2,100 for the department's costs, including the judge, accommodation, and court staff; £2,950 in legal aid (the defence team); £1,550 for prosecution witnesses; £250 for the prison service; £300 for the probation service; £450 for the police.

John Clitheroe, of Kingsley Napley, said: "There are six defendants in this case, and the bill is shared among them. It would be very misleading to say that the £4 million applied just to Kevin and Ian Maxwell."

Although partners in City firms of solicitors normally charge in the region of £200 an hour, for criminal legal aid the rate is £54, although in difficult cases that could be almost doubled to £90. The legal aid guidelines for a brief fee for a QC are £5,400 with a refresh of £330, but it is likely that double would be charged.

Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallsend, a long-standing critic of the amount of legal aid going to the brothers, predicted that the final bill would top £10 million.

Law, page 34



Byers: critic of legal aid sums going to brothers

the Serious Fraud Office, were all paid on hourly rates.

Mr Birts pointed out that of the £4 million much of the total would be disbursements, such as copying charges, fees to handwriting experts or accountants. "There is a tremendous amount of work getting a case like this to trial. It is a major undertaking, but it is in the interests of justice that these people have a fair, proper trial and are properly represented."

Several firms of lawyers are



Ian Maxwell leaving work yesterday. He and his brother Kevin will stand trial in April on fraud charges

Brothers' lives laid bare by legal legacy of father's untimely death

By JON ASHWORTH

KEVIN and Ian Maxwell must find it hard to remember what life was like before the day in November 1991 when their father's body was recovered from the sea off Tenerife. Robert Maxwell's death triggered a chain of events that led, in July 1993, to the brothers and their co-defendants being committed for trial in connection with alleged fraud involving about £305 million.

The brothers have tried to keep a low profile in the face of intense media scrutiny. Kevin, 35, who became Britain's biggest individual bankrupt in September 1992 with personal debts of £406 mil-

lion, lives with his wife and children in Moulsham, Oxfordshire, in a house provided by his father-in-law.

Ian, 38, lives with his American-born wife Laura in a rented house in Islington, north London. Both work as consultants to Westbourne Communications, a Mayfair-based business consultancy run by Robert Maxwell's former aide, Jean Baddeley. Ian and Laura occasionally travel to America to visit her mother. His work also takes him to Eastern Europe. Requests to travel abroad have to be cleared with the Serious Fraud Office.

Pressure on the brothers has eased since June 1992, when reporters camped outside Kevin's £14 million house in Chelsea and witnessed. When the doorbell rang early one morning, his wife Pandora leaned out of an upstairs window and shouted: "Piss off, we don't get up for another hour."



Betty Maxwell: said husband beat children

When she threatened to call the police, the two men replied: "We are the police, madam."

After being declared bankrupt he signed on at a JobCentre. Ian avoided the same fate when, in March 1993 with five minutes to spare, he paid £500,000 to the liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management, former manager of the Mirror Group Newspapers pen-

sion funds. The most intimate details of their lives have been laid bare. A statement of affairs by Kevin soon after his father's death listed personal possessions including a racehorse and a £25,000 Morgan car. It also referred to a £250,000 chateau in the Lot region of France.

Robert Maxwell's widow Betty, 73, has consistently scoffed at talk of a luxurious life in France and secret funds in Liechtenstein. She was forced to move out of Headington Hill Hall, the family seat near Oxford, and spent time with her sister in a suburb of Paris.

She claims to be penniless, yet emerged as the mystery benefactor who provided £900,000 towards her sons' legal bills. An attempt to sell 45 hats at auction fell flat last summer.

Her biography *A Mind Of My Own*, published last year, portrayed Robert Maxwell as a megalomaniac who beat his children and interfered with their personal lives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Company fined over toxic gases

Toxic gases were discharged after a worker's error, Warrington magistrates were told. The gases, one of which could cause cancer, were discharged by Vinamul, a Warrington-based subsidiary of Unilever. Vinamul, which admitted unauthorised release of the gases and two other charges, was fined £19,000.

Prison protest

Juliet Lilley, an officer at Gloucester jail, has made an official complaint after claiming she was pinched on the bottom by a male inmate in the young offenders' wing.

Vases returned

Thieves have returned vases stolen from a chapel in Aberfan, Mid Glamorgan, after discovering they were put there in memory of children killed in the 1966 disaster.

Police blunder

Police apologised to Bernie and Anne Walker, pensioners in Toxteth, Liverpool, after breaking into the wrong house on a dawn drugs raid. The front door is to be replaced.

Men mug boy

Two men aged about 20 robbed a nine-year-old boy outside his school in Gloucester. One man punched the boy in the stomach before they ran off with 60p.

Pirate video haul

Anti-piracy officers seized 250 video recorders and illegal copies of pornographic films, video nasties and unreleased Hollywood movies in raids on two houses in Essex.

Armagh campus

Queen's University, Belfast, is to open a campus in Armagh City next September in partnership with the district council. It will start with 100 part-time students.

Feet to the fore

Eric Cantona's football boots and the shoes in which Nelson Mandela walked to freedom have been donated to the First Steps Appeal for premature births and miscarriages.

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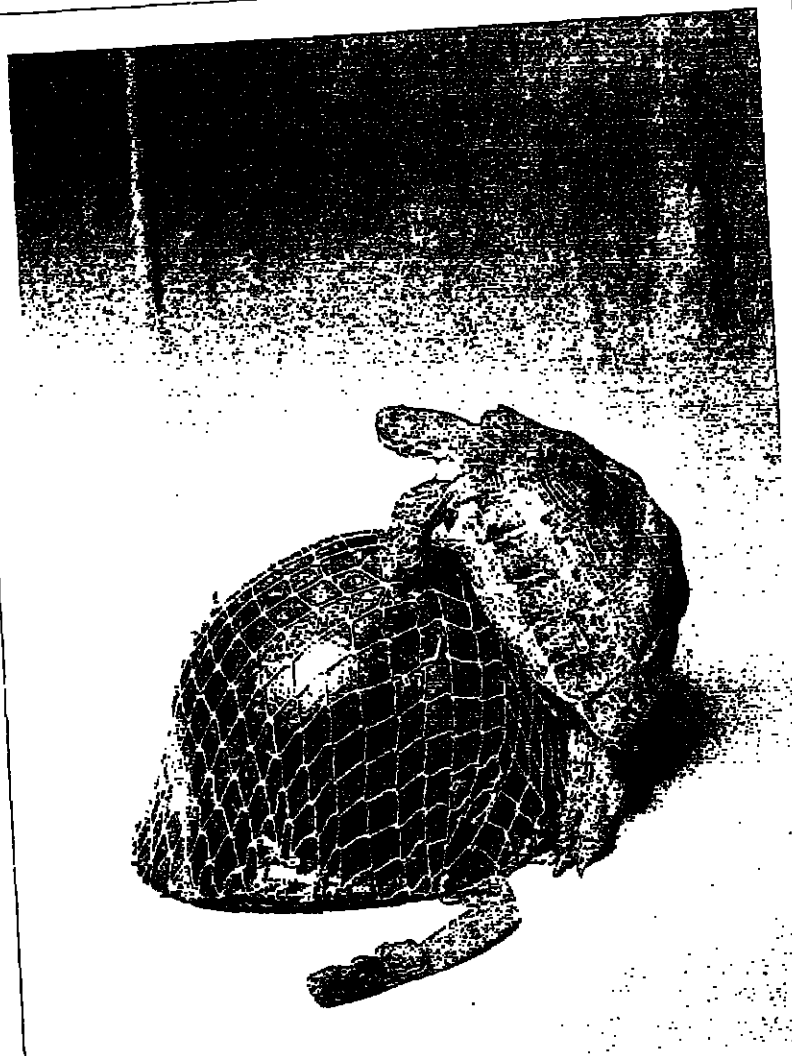
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administration fee payable on redemption of £50.00, solicitor's mortgage charges of £100.00 and a single repayment of capital of £40,000. It assumes the mortgage starts in the middle of the month. The example also assumes a minimum guaranteed death benefit of £40,000 and a term of 25 years for the endowment policy. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For standing loans, a suitable endowment policy, PEP or pension plan will also be required. An indemnity policy, for which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance. If the mortgage is redeemed earlier in full, in part or transferred to another scheme before 31.12.98, a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of redemption will be charged. All mortgages are subject to status and solvency and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from your local branch or from Dept 15, Woolwich Building Society Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Bewley Heath, Kent DA6 7RR

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For many years now, Apple Macintosh has been the most popular personal computer in the world. It's the only computer that's easy to use, easy to learn, and easy to integrate with other systems. And now, with the introduction of the new Macintosh Plus, it's even easier to use. The new Macintosh Plus is a true workhorse, with a built-in hard drive, a 10MB cache, and a 1.44MB floppy disk drive. It's the perfect computer for anyone who needs a reliable, powerful, and easy-to-use machine.

If a product is to find a place in our homes, it must first find a place in our hearts. Such a relationship can rarely be achieved in one advertisement. The Apple Macintosh is a classic example of a product which has won an enduring place in our affections. For years its makers have used newspapers to conduct a close affair with the customer, steadily building up a relationship. A witty and charming series of advertisements have, over the years, informed, amused and won our hearts. Macintosh itself can be seen clearly in the thought of an intimate object (dubbed, it certainly isn't). It has its own character, virtues, strengths and eccentricities. All of which are strongly in evidence in this outstanding advertisement by agency Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO which won a top prize in our recent National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards. Congratulations.

FRM14

JP 11/10/95

TV watchdog bans midnight feasts and jokes on overeating

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A TELEVISION watchdog have banned greed from the screen in a new set of rules designed for the age of dietary correctness. From today advertisers cannot show people gorging on chocolate bars or heaping their supermarket trolleys with them. Nor can they make jokes that belittle good nutritional practice.

Children's "midnight feasts" are also banned, on the grounds that it is unlikely the children would brush their teeth afterwards.

The new rules, published today by the Independent Television Commission, impose restrictions on the advertising of stimulating products and on health claims made for food products. Advertisements may not be directed at the obese or use case histories of fat people to make their point, nor suggest or imply that being underweight is acceptable or desirable.

The restrictions, which aim to ensure that advertising does not contribute to the spread of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa or bulimia, put slimming products on the same basis as alcohol so far as

children are concerned. Adverts for them cannot be shown during children's programmes or those that appeal to anyone under 18.

The most controversial of the new rulings declares that advertisements "must not encourage or condone excessive consumption of any food". The ITC says that this would not prohibit shots of someone enjoying a single chocolate bar, but it would preclude a second "or consuming a whole box of chocolates at a sitting".

An advertisement that showed the comic actor Harry Enfield loading a supermarket trolley with Dime bars would now be unacceptable. Such images would only be allowed if "it was clearly established that the purchase was not for individual use".

Advertisements "must not disparage good dietary practice" and must consider oral health, particularly when addressed to children. They must not encourage frequent consumption throughout the day or depict situations where it could be assumed that teeth would not be cleaned after consumption. John Newman,

director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, said yesterday: "As responsible manufacturers we would obviously encourage people to brush their teeth, but I think the guidelines go too far in restricting the use of humour. To ban what are obvious jokes is regrettable."

The National Food Alliance, however, said that the rules did not go far enough and called for a ban on advertisements for "fatty and sugary" foods when large numbers of children were likely to be watching.

"The ITC has failed to address the cumulative advertising message to children, a message that overwhelmingly portrays fatty and sugary foods as attractive and desirable food choices," Sue Dibb, project officer of the NFA, an alliance of voluntary organisations, said. "This makes progress towards the Government's national dietary targets more difficult."



Harry Enfield in an advertisement for Dime bars

Social map shows growing divide of rich and poor

A university study has found that many inner-city children are growing up in families without a wage earner. Ian Murray reports

THE class system in England is becoming more entrenched as society increasingly divides between rich and poor and north and south, according to a social atlas published today. The divisions of wealth between rich and poor seem to be getting more marked, one of the authors, David Gordon of Bristol University, said yesterday.

The university's atlas is based on figures from the 1991 census. "We didn't find this kind of pattern in the 1981 census and from what we can see the trend seems to be accelerating," Mr Gordon, who works in the social policy department, said. "We had been led to believe that the north-south divide was disappearing."

An introduction to the atlas says England remains "a nation of immense social and economic differences" with social polarisation and traditional geographic differences. "Problems of unemployment, poverty and ill health are concentrated in the major cities, the depressed industrial North and in the forgotten corners of England."

By contrast, areas of affluence and privilege are found in the extended suburban South East. These patterns suggest a country divided, rather than at ease with itself.

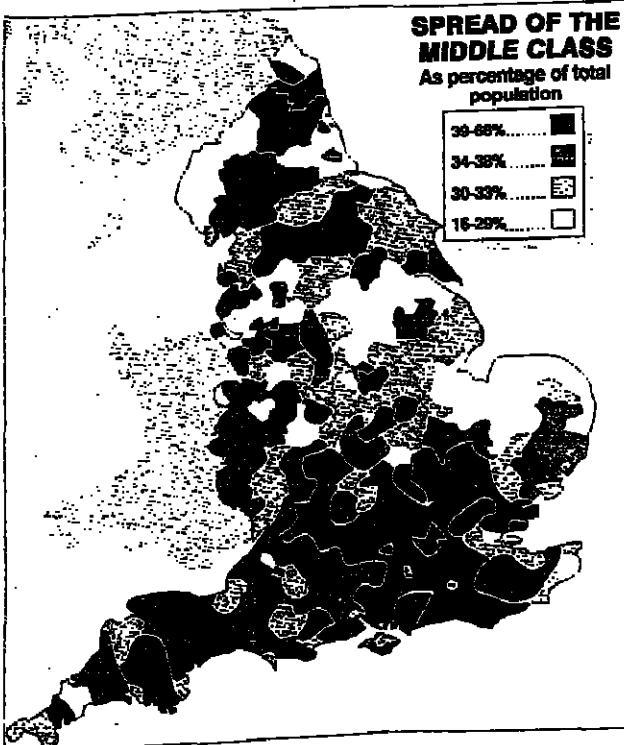
In parts of London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and

Tyneside, significant proportions of children are growing up in households with no earners. High levels of youth unemployment are found in the same areas, with a pattern of unemployment and early retirement.

The heaviest concentrations of households with no earners were in inner cities, with Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham and seven London boroughs making up the most deprived ten.

Tower Hamlets in London, where 54 per cent of households have a wage earner, was the worst off. In contrast, south Northamptonshire, Wokingham and Ribbles Valley had a salary coming into 95 per cent of households.

The atlas includes maps locating England's poor and rich. The poor are in areas of high unemployment and sickness, large numbers of unskilled workers and one parent families. The rich live in areas where many own at least two cars and have homes with seven or more rooms. Their average salary is over £23,705 and there is a high proportion of Dinkys (dual income no kids) households. *People and Places 2: Social and economic distinctions in England* (SAUS Publications, University of Bristol, Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Bristol BS8 4EA; £19.95)



Paul Davies and Tracy Scott outside the tribunal. They allege sex discrimination

Police couple claim taunts over affair ended their car

By Paul Wilkins

TWO ambitious police officers claimed their careers were ruined after they began a relationship, an industrial tribunal was told. Tracy Scott, 32, an inspector with Surrey Police, said she became the subject of snoop-ing, pestering and whispering campaigns by senior officers when she joined a course at an elite Home Office training school.

Paul Davies, 41, a married man, said he too was singled out for unfair treatment after their relationship began, the tribunal in Leeds was told yesterday. At the time Mr Davies, who was a sergeant, was separated from his wife and they have since divorced.

He and Ms Scott allege sexual discrimination by the Central Police Training Unit, the Home Office and two senior officers at the unit, Superintendent David Oakes and Chief Inspector Patrick McKory. The allegations are denied. Anthony Snelson, solicitor

for the couple, said they were "sapped of stamina and their self-belief" after allegedly being victimised by senior officers at the unit in Pannal Ash, Harrogate.

They had been seconded to the unit in March 1993 after being recommended to join a course that produces highly specialised police trainers. Mr Snelson said: "Before the course, these two people looked forward to the future full of promise and confident of gaining further advances within the force, but as a result of the victimisation they suffered, their careers are over and their confidence shattered."

Miss Scott, of Effingham, Surrey, joined the force as a constable aged 19. She is off work because of illness and has been ruled "incapable of returning to work" by a medical officer. Mr Davies, who joined the police in 1977, has retired from West Midlands Police and now lives in Harrogate.

The case continues.

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*Survey published in The Daily Telegraph, Saturday January 7th 1995. Source: Telesure.

National report criticises poor buildings but praises 52 secondaries for improving results

Literacy standards in primary schools disturb inspectors

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a quarter of lessons in state schools are of a poor standard, with teaching of reading and writing particularly weak at primary level, according to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.

In his annual report published yesterday, Chris Woodhead says the education offered to children in disadvantaged areas is "bleak". He singles out the junior sector for criticism and urges teachers to employ a greater range of teaching methods instead of relying heavily on "doctrinaire" progressive techniques.

The 57-page report, an audit of the health of state education, found evidence of a slight improvement in quality as a result of government reforms such as the introduction of the national curriculum, local management of schools and the new inspection regime. However, more than half the secondary schools in England and a quarter of primaries were short of books, and poor buildings directly affected standards and the quality of teaching at one in four secondary schools, usually in science, music, PE or technology.

Mr Woodhead, who was appointed in September, takes

the unprecedented step of identifying 52 secondary schools for public praise in recognition of their improved examination results and a positive verdict from visiting inspectors. He says the schools' achievement is a testament to teachers' dedication, commitment and expertise.

Mr Woodhead says the key to improving standards is raising teachers' expectations of pupils and ensuring children master the basics of literacy and numeracy before going to secondary school. Primary teachers should change their techniques and reduce the

number of mixed ability lessons and the amount of "topic work" that combines several subjects at once.

Inspectors found that the quality of teaching was poor in 25 per cent of lessons for children aged five to seven. The same judgment was made on 30 per cent of classes at 7-11, 19 per cent at 11-14, and 17 per cent at 14-16. Lessons were too often inadequately planned or involved content that the teacher did not fully understand.

Standards were lowest in reading and writing with significant numbers of primary children failing to master the basics. Inspectors say it is disturbing to find reading standards inadequate in one in 20 schools for pupils aged five to seven, and one in ten for those aged 7-11. The quality of writing was found to be wanting in more schools.

The report is scathing about education at the 20 per cent of schools in deprived urban areas. It says: "Less is expected of pupils. The teaching they experience is more likely to be judged unsatisfactory or poor. In addition, their own attitudes to school, behaviour and attendance often mean that



Science classes at Anfield Comprehensive, which doubled its GCSE pass rate and has since improved it again

MAIN POINTS

- Quarter of lessons in infant schools are poor and 30 per cent in junior schools
- Teaching of literacy and numeracy must be improved, particularly in urban primaries
- Teachers must raise expectations of pupils and improve marking
- Differences in standards at local authority and opt-out schools were "insubstantial"
- Behaviour good in nine out of ten secondaries. Ethnic minorities most likely to be expelled

they respond less favourably to teaching." The report calls for sustained local, institutional and national action if "real and lasting improvements are to be achieved".

Grant maintained schools performed slightly better than their local authority rivals in examinations, but the report

says this reflects the wealthier backgrounds of pupils and parents.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said the report showed government policy was working but criticised bad teaching in the inner cities. She said: "I will not tolerate such a situation. No

child should be on the receiving end of poor teaching."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "I would like to see Mr Woodhead's inspectors come in and show my members how to succeed with the 20 per cent

of classes that just seem impossible to teach."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the report was biased because it did not refer to the rise in class sizes. The naming of improving schools encouraged parents to believe others were failing.

In the first set of published league tables Anfield, with 900 pupils and 54 teaching staff, trailed nationally with only 6 per cent of fifth-formers gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A to C. The figure improved to 13.1 per cent in 1993 and last year it rose again to 18.3 per cent.

While the school's results still trail below the local authority average of 25 per cent, and its attendance rate of 91 per cent scores only a single percentage point above the Government's recommended rate, the turnaround in the school's success has impressed pupils and parents alike.

The school is set in an area that has many of the problems associated with Britain's inner city: high levels of unemployment, neglected and unimproved housing, crime and low career expectations.

Three years ago, in an attempt to encourage pupils to develop a much-lacking sense of pride in their school, Mr Boyle, 42, initiated a clean-up campaign, a bright new uniform designed by the pupils, a change of school name and piped music in the foyer. When he came to the school he felt there was a controlled atmosphere and a feeling among teachers that their main role was to "keep a lid on the children and their behaviour".

With the outward changes, he and a seven-member management team decided that his priority was to establish a code of conduct for pupils, greatly improve their behaviour and enhance the reputation of the school locally.

His efforts now focus on increasing the academic performance of his pupils, 50 per cent of whom resume studies in the sixth form after taking GCSEs. Many of the remainder find work in the retail sector. "We have tried to develop an ethos which values good behaviour and learning," he said. "I want students to get some sense of self-esteem and the qualifications which will lead them to a good job."

Ann Esquires, 17, a sixth-form student studying three A levels, remembers the school of old. She said: "We used to have a bad reputation but now parents are choosing to send their children here. The atmosphere has improved massively, it's not a dull place any more and the teachers, who've put in a lot of effort, make us feel important. It's a completely new school."

Kevin Hart, 12, said: "I just feel good when I walk through the school gates in the morning."

Dilapidation and dated equipment hinder learning



At a Bristol school, a bucket catches the rain

HEAVY rain brings out brightly coloured buckets in the classrooms at Christ Church Primary School in Clifton, Bristol. The flat roof, typical of schools built in the 1960s, is the cause of regular ceiling collapses.

Many of the school's window frames are rotten and the school's expensive wooden block floor lifts with the damp. A team from the Office for Standards in Education inspected the 265-pupil school last term and reported: "The very poor condition of the building provides an environment which is uncongenial to learning and teaching."

Tony Tweed, the head teacher, is increasingly frustrated by the repair bills but tries to remain phlegmatic. He says: "Only the efforts of staff prevent the problems with the

Implementation of the National Curriculum is constrained by poor buildings, Ben Preston writes

building detracting from the quality of learning or standards achieved." According to the annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, inadequate buildings are directly affecting standards and the quality of teaching.

Christ Church, however, is an example of how a school can overcome problems. The inspectors praised it as a successful school providing good value for money, but for Mr Tweed the question remains how much better it would

do if freed from having to cope with leaks and repairs.

In his report, Mr Woodhead says that overall provision of resources is "satisfactory" and he challenges heads and governors to justify budget surpluses. But his comments on school equipment and accommodation are forthright. In many primary schools, he says, information technology equipment is "dated".

The right range and balance of resources is vital "if essential skills specified in the National Curriculum are to be developed adequately".

While accommodation has improved, he adds, some schools still have severe problems.

In about one in four secondary schools, accommodation "in one way or another" constrains the implementation of the National Curriculum. About one in five central recommendations by inspectors required capital expenditure "beyond the normal resources available to an efficiently managed school".

There is no doubt, Mr Woodhead says, that good teachers can achieve a great deal in poor accommodation. "Nevertheless, problems with accommodation are affecting standards and the quality of teaching in too many secondary schools."

His comments on resources and accommodation will add fuel to

today's House of Commons debate on local government spending.

The head of a large comprehensive school announced yesterday that he was leaving the job he loves and returning to part-time teaching in protest over what he saw as the underfunding of education.

Roger Daw, the principal of the City of Ely Community College in Cambridgeshire, who has two children at university, will give up his £45,000-a-year post in the summer at the age of 51. "I could not live with my conscience any longer and keep saying everything is all right when it is not," Mr Daw said. "This is not to do with Ely or Cambridgeshire, which could not be better to work for, but children have been given a raw deal over a long period."

Traditionalist whose views belie progressive past

CHRIS WOODHEAD has risen through the ranks of the education establishment with the speed that makes enemies. "Brain surgery for primary teachers" is how one former colleague summarised the Chief Inspector's polemic against progressive teaching methods last week (Ben Preston writes).

Mr Woodhead's first annual report on the state of the education system is written with the directness of a man in a hurry to make his mark. "Don't tell me, more back to basics," a chief education officer for a large education authority said as he passed journalists leaving yesterday's press conference.

The suspicion — and for some, the bitterness — aroused by Mr Woodhead is rooted in the curriculum vitae of a teacher turned gamekeeper. He is a former English teacher, local authority inspector and chief education officer, jobs regarded by Conservative backbenchers as the preserve of educational progressives. He graduated from Bristol and Keele universities in the 1960s after attending a London grammar school.

Mr Woodhead, 48, became



Woodhead: challenging 'culture of complacency'

deputy chief executive of the Government's curriculum watchdog in 1991, taking the top job within a year.

He first came to prominence in the debate over the restoration of formal teaching methods in primary schools three years ago. He was one of the "three wise men" picked by Kenneth Clarke, Education Secretary at the time, to conduct an independent inquiry. The report concluded that the progress of primary pupils was hampered by "highly questionable dogmas" that led to excessively complex classroom practices. Reliance on topic work rather than tackling one subject at a time led to fragmentary and superficial teaching, it said. But just as pressure for change in primaries appeared to be building, the teachers' boycott of national tests turned attention away from the issue.

As head of a non-ministerial government department with a budget of more than £70 million, Mr Woodhead is determined to challenge what he regards as the complacent culture of the profession. Teachers' devotion to questionable classroom techniques is firmly on the educational agenda now industrial action over testing has ended.

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Labour promises day care from 3

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR tried yesterday to trump the Government's promise of pre-school education for every four year old with a plan to offer all-day care from the age of three.

An inquiry chaired by Margaret Hodge, MP for Barking, is to produce a framework combining a range of services for young children. Free nursery education would be offered for all three and four year olds, where possible in centres providing supervision throughout the day.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said parents would pay for day care unless they qualified for welfare benefits. A new system would embrace playgroups and private nurseries, includ-

ing some that were run by companies for their staff.

Mr Blunkett challenged Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to announce the Government's plans. At last year's Conservative party conference, John Major promised to expand nursery provision during the present Parliament in an initiative leading to the offer of a place for every four year old. Proposals are still being developed by an inter-departmental taskforce.

Mr Blunkett said access to nursery provision had become a lottery. In some areas the education authority provided pre-school places for 90 per cent of the population, in others only 22 per cent.

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Whether Sizewell B will be the first of a new generation of British reactors or the last of its kind is likely to depend on the outcome of the Govern-

□ Sizewell B is the 35th nuclear

reactor unit in Britain.

years but it is far from written off," he said.



Sizewell B, which might yet be joined by a third plant on the Suffolk site.

By Nick Nuttall

In the United States and Australia no nuclear stations have been built since 1979. The best export hopes are countries with fast-growing economies and populations or few natural energy resources, such as Taiwan, with which Nuclear Electric hopes to sign a contract.

... ..

□ Sizewell B is the 35th nuclear reactor unit in Britain.

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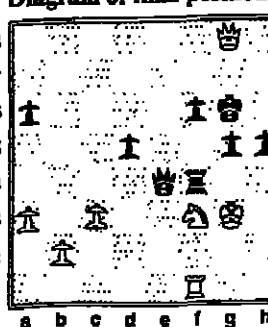


Kasparov: hi-tech defeat

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Black: Glek
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Sicilian Defence

d4	d5
4 excd5	excD5
5 N183	a8
6 Ba2	N16
7 dnc5	Bw5
8 O-0	he6
9 N1b2	O-0
10 N1b2	Nb6
11 Rr1	Re8
12 N1d4	Rw3
3 h3	Qd6
4 Bc3	Bw3
5 gph3	Rw3
6 N15	Qd4
7 Nw3	Bw3
8 fwb3	Qg4+
9 Kf1	Nar
10 Nf2	Cb3+
12 g13	Ox3+
3 Kg2	Ng3+
4 Nd1	Nf1
5 Kh1	Rd8
6 Qb3	Ne5
7 Nf2	Nb3+
8 Nd3	Qd5
9 Kg2	Rd5
10 Qxb7	Rf6
12 Rf1	Qf5
3 Ch2	Qf4
4 Ch3	R4
6 Kg3	R5
7 Kg3	Ng5
8 Qc2	h5
9 Qg6+	Kf6
10 Qf6+	Kf6
11 Qg6+	Kf6
12 Qf6+	Kg6
3 Qf6+	Qf6+

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 44



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*Survey published in The Daily Telegraph, Saturday January 7th 1995. Source: Telesure.
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Tighten the rules but not too much, Nolan inquiry told

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

GREATER restrictions on the employment of former ministers could leave them in a "black hole" where they might find it difficult to support their families, the Nolan inquiry was told yesterday.

Tony Newton, leader of the Commons and the first serving government minister to give evidence to the inquiry, said that if the rules were too stringent they would lead not to a raising of standards in public life but to a reduction in the quality of those willing to seek office. He also made it clear that he thought MPs would not accept scrutiny of their conduct by an independent authority.

Mr Newton, who said he was not speaking on behalf of the Government, expressed concern at the suggestion that former ministers should face similar restrictions to civil servants on leaving office. Senior civil servants have to seek approval before taking up a sensitive post within two years of leaving the service.

Mr Newton did not refer directly to the row last week over the appointment of Lord Wakeham as a non-executive director at the merchant bankers N.M. Rothschild, but he said that unlike a career in the Civil Service, which was "a secure operation leading to a good pension", politics was an "inherently insecure" way of life. Ministers could find themselves out of office and

out of Parliament at very short notice.

"If you get the rules wrong in terms of what you may do after being a minister, you would inhibit people becoming a minister whatever the pay, because of the risk they might find themselves in a sort of black hole on ceasing to be a minister or even an MP."

He added: "I believe there is a risk that if we get the balance wrong in any new rules you impose, it will further increase the reluctance of people to become MPs at all, when taken in combination with other things like exposure to publicity and the nature of the job. The end result we would get would not be an improvement in the standard of public life but a reduction in the quality of people prepared to go into it at all."

While most of the evidence the Nolan committee has heard in its first two weeks has favoured an independent element in scrutinising the conduct of MPs, Mr Newton took a different view. Asked by Lord Nolan whether it was right that MPs should effectively act as prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner in their own cases, Mr Newton said that the idea of an outside official or body ruling on the ethics of the behaviour of MPs was "extremely sensitive".

Supporting the principle of self-regulation, Mr Newton said: "It would be quite strong-

ly felt that these are decisions that should be taken by the House. If you get into a position where pressure could be put on MPs, for whatever reason, by people threatening to refer them to some person designated over Parliament, over MPs' financial interests and the like, it might cause problems."

Mr Newton also defended the principle of lobbying, which he feared was in danger of becoming a pejorative word. "We are talking about representations that are part and parcel of our democratic process," he said.

He was immediately contradicted by the journalist Adam Raphael, who told the committee that there was a case "for a form of Ombudsman" to be involved in investigating MPs' interests. "My own view is that the House of Commons has proved unable to reform itself, and the need for reform is very urgent. I believe there has to be an outside element."

The committee later took its first evidence about the Civil Service from Sir Peter Kemp, the former second permanent secretary to the Cabinet. He said that concern about political bias in the £2,000 or so appointments now made to quangos by or on behalf of ministers could easily be dispelled. "All posts should be openly advertised and appointed by a public service commission of some kind."



Party divide on Europe narrower than either side would admit

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Should pro-Europeans vote Labour at the next election? The positions of the main parties have changed radically since Enoch Powell urged voters to back Labour in February 1974 after standing down as a Tory MP largely because of entry into the European Community. His Tory successor in Wolverhampton South-West, elected with a much reduced majority then, was ironically the Euro-sceptic Nicholas Budge. Mr Powell's view can now be turned on its head.

The contrast between the more sceptical stance of the Major Government and the pro-European position of Labour was noted by Geoffrey Howe on Monday. Lord Howe would certainly not urge anyone to vote Labour. But Tory pro-Europeans could face a dilemma as acute as opponents of Britain's entry had in 1974.

Both main parties are magnifying their differences, while taking up detailed positions not that far apart. While John Major has raised the flag as defender of British national interests and Parliament against further incursions from Brussels, Tony

Blair, particularly on the single currency. Moreover, Labour's policies on, for instance, fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy are not shared by European socialists. Mr Blair's office and Pauline Green, leader of the parliamentary group of European socialists, yesterday quickly distanced themselves from a working paper discussing the end of the national veto on treaty changes.

On Monday, Mr Cook stressed Labour's support for the retention of the veto on matters of vital national interest, the Budget and treaty revisions. This is the Tory position. Both main parties also favour inter-governmental co-operation on foreign and defence policy, as backed two days ago by Malcolm Rifkind. Even on a single currency, differences can be exaggerated. Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown are not that far apart, even if Michael Portillo disagrees with both on this issue.

The Government position is still that the opt-out permits Parliament to take a decision on British participation if and

when necessary, while Labour's support for a single currency is not unconditional. It depends on a convergence in growth and employment, as well as financial factors.

Yet the contrast in rhetoric does matter. The Tory mood is undeniably more sceptical than it was, while Labour is clearly more enthusiastic. Both parties are, of course, split: more Labour than Tory MPs voted against the Maastricht Bill. But, in the main, Labour anti-Europeans are from the older generation or the isolated hard-Left, while Tory sceptics are strongest among younger MPs and are in the mainstream.

Although the differences in practice on European policies between a Major and a Blair Government might be much less than either would claim, the shift in the balance of the two parties is real. Whereas Labour Euro-enthusiasts were in a minority in the early 1970s — many leaving to form the SDP in 1981 — so now the committed pro-Europeans in the Tory party are anxious and on the defensive.

PETER RIDDELL

Hurd to deny Lockerbie cover-up

By JILL SHERMAN

DOUGLAS HURD will strongly deny today that the Foreign Office is trying to conceal evidence that could help to identify those behind the Lockerbie bombing.

The Foreign Secretary will take the unusual step of replying to an adjournment debate in which Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, will challenge him over recent allegations that there was Iranian and Syrian involvement. Mr Dalyell will ask whether the Crown Office

or the Procurator Fiscal have instructed the police to investigate the allegations, and if not, why not.

The Government has been criticised by some MPs over its handling of the investigation. It contends that the bomb that blew up a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people, was planted by two Libyan intelligence officers at Malta.

Today Mr Hurd will tell MPs that there has been no

cover-up. He will emphasise that it is important for any new evidence to be investigated. However, he is also expected to make clear that both the British and the Americans think little new has come out of the recent reports from America that there was Iranian involvement. He will say that both governments are working hard to bring the Libyans to trial but will disclose that negotiations have been unsuccessful so far.

Redwood unveils green action plan

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD, the Welsh Secretary, announced a green agenda for Wales yesterday.

Mr Redwood angered environmentalists and naturalists last month when he put forward budget cuts for the Countryside Council for Wales, the principal body for nature conservation in Wales. Yesterday, however, he said: "I see the council continuing to play a vital role in protecting and conserving Welsh environment."

He is understood to be seeking greater efficiency by cutting overheads, some research work and grants to voluntary organisations. He also wants some of the conservation burden to be shared with local authorities.

Mr Redwood set out plans for more forestry in Wales to help to cut Britain's timber imports, and for the development of reclaimed rather than greenfield land.

Beckett condemns 'profit from sickness and disease'

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR accused the Government yesterday of openly pursuing the privatisation and commercialisation of the National Health Service.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Health Secretary, said: "There is today a threat to the sheer existence of the NHS. The threat shows in the stark evidence that the NHS is being privatised by stealth before our eyes and the only people who aren't supposed to be in on the secret are the people of Britain."

Launching a debate in the Commons on the health service, Mrs Beckett said: "Ministers have already fragmented the service into almost 500 individual businesses, competing for the profits to be made from sickness and disease."

Several Tory MPs chided her for making a 54-minute speech that avoided any mention of Labour's policies on health, but she continued: "The Government is intent on fragmenting the service and, through failure to plan, through destructive competition and profound demoralisation within the NHS, they intend that the NHS shall no longer play the major role in maintaining the nation's health."

Mrs Beckett cited a series of recent hospital scandals, including the discovery of a patient's corpse under piping at St Thomas's hospital in London and the Truro baby who had a hypodermic needle left inside him, to prove that there was "decay and decline" in the NHS.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, accused

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the health service, opened by the Opposition on the "threat to the existence of the NHS" resulting from government policies. There was also a debate on the Police Grant Report.

In the Lords, there was a debate on the Environment Bill.

TODAY: In the Commons, MPs will sit at 10am with backbench debates until 2.30pm. These will be followed by Foreign Office questions and a debate on the English Revenue Support Grant reported by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. In the Lords, there will be debates on juvenile crime and on the role of the Civil Service.

Mrs Beckett, whose speech relied extensively on press articles, of sounding like a cuttings library. Mrs Bottomley said: "As ever, we have this endless smear — innuendo about privatisation. We are proud of the changes we have set in hand. We are proud of the extra money we have put into the NHS. And we are proud of the achievements of staff. If anyone can speak as the guardian of the NHS, it is we on this side of the House who have run it for twice as long as Labour."

To Tory cheers, she said: "After the last general election Labour found themselves out on their Jennifer's ear and they still haven't learnt their lesson. People want progress in the NHS, not the protest from the party opposite."

Mrs Bottomley praised the new Patient's Charter, launched two weeks ago, for making the NHS accountable to the patients. "For Labour accountability is something you talk about at Islington dinner parties. Power is what you give to the trade unions," she said.



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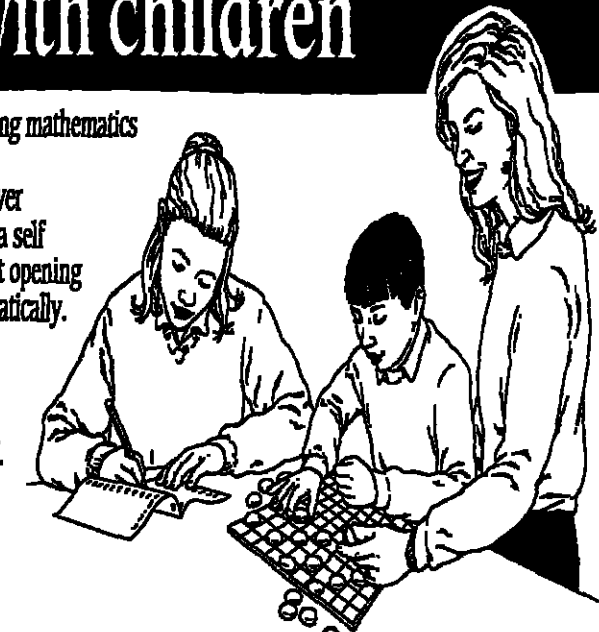
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Rao sits out

British minister to meet leader of East Timor rebels

By DAVID WATTS

FOR the first time since the Indonesians occupied East Timor in 1975, a British minister is to meet the leader of the resistance's political wing in an attempt to persuade President Suharto to loosen his grip on the territory.

The British Government has always taken a sympathetic view of Jakarta's annexation of the former Portuguese territory not least because of the lucrative arms trade which has included the sale of dozens of British Aerospace Hawk aircraft and armour. But when José Ramos Horta, co-chairman of the National Council of the Timorese Resistance, meets Alistair Gordon, Minister of State responsible for Far Eastern Affairs, tomorrow it will be confirmation that patience over Indonesia's refusal to compromise, despite years of United Nations entreaties, is rapidly running out.

It has not gone unnoticed that while the Indonesian Government sent peacekeeping troops to join the UN operation in Cambodia, it has not been willing to solve its own similarly longstanding problem.

Mr Horta said that it was not credible that Britain would stop selling arms to Indonesia. "They have done much worse elsewhere such as selling arms to the Iraqis, but they want to

push for a settlement now," he said. He is canvassing for autonomy for the territory and its 800,000 inhabitants.

"It's not that we have an ideological mind-set but we know that people will not accept special status... Indonesia has to do much more to overcome the 20 years of barbarism."

So far America, Britain and Australia, the nations behind the current diplomatic drive, will go no further than discussing a special status for the territory at the eastern extremity of the world's largest archipelago.

The initiative coincides with a hearing before the International Court of Justice in The Hague in which Portugal, the former colonial power, is contesting the legality of treaties between Australia and Indonesia on exploitation of the vast oil resources under the Timor Sea. Lisbon claims the Indonesians had no legal right to enter into a treaty involving a territory whose possession is not recognised by the UN. If the court finds the treaties invalid it will further undermine Jakarta's position.

The Indonesians will countenance no substantial change in their military presence in East Timor. This amounts to between seven and 13 battalions and several thousand Timorese conscripts. Jakarta

claims the lower figure is accurate, but the scale of their presence can be judged from the presence of three colonels, 46 lieutenant-colonels and 11 majors in Military Region 9 which covers East Timor, according to an order of battle drawn up by the command last spring.

A military map captured when an Indonesian sergeant was killed recently shows that military units are stationed near every clutch of settlements at the eastern end of the territory, despite a level of military activity which is only a fraction of what it was, particularly since the capture and imprisonment of Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the East Timorese guerrilla fighters.

The failure to resolve the conflict has cost Indonesia dear as a supposed leader of the less-developed nations. There is speculation that the problem has become particularly contentious in the contest to succeed Mr Suharto among the senior levels of the Indonesian Army.

This may explain how Mr Xanana was able to smuggle out of prison a letter to President Clinton during last year's summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Jakarta and two interviews in Indonesian which were broadcast into the country by Radio Nederland.



Guided by a city official, centre, Emperor Akihito inspects earthquake damage in Kobe with Empress Michiko

Kobe gives emperor a cool reception

FROM REUTERS IN KOBE

KOBE gave Emperor Akihito a generally cool reception yesterday when he visited the port city two weeks after more than 5,000 people perished in the earthquake. Japan's worst postwar disaster.

Some refugees said the trip had been organised to defuse public anger over the initial slow response of the Government to the January 17 tragedy that left 270,000 people homeless. Others blamed the

Emperor for the quake's high toll in the slums of Kobe after his failure to end discrimination against the poor.

"The Emperor should use his head," said one shopkeeper who lost one of her two stores. "He's being used by politicians and isn't going to accomplish anything by coming here."

The arrival of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in Kobe coincided with temperatures of -2C (28F), the coldest weather since the earthquake. Not all Kobe people were critical of the imperial

visit. "After about ten days, people were starting to get sick of watching pictures of Kobe at home," said Hideo Wong, 38, a grocer. "But the Emperor's visit has drawn attention back here, and if that helps the relief effort, then it's a good thing."

Haruo Akira, 28, a construction worker, also praised the trip. "The Emperor is still very important in Japan and his visit here today is giving some people the spirit to continue and rebuild their lives," he said.

Japanese MPs fight Diet war apology

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

MORE than 100 conservative MPs in Japan formed a council yesterday to oppose an apology by the Diet, or parliament, to countries that suffered at the hands of the Japanese Army in the Second World War.

The creation of the council came as a British-led mission of former POWs left Tokyo yesterday after suing the Japanese Government for compensation. The former prisoners have demanded a full written apology and "token compensation" of £14,000 each for trauma suffered in Japanese prison camps.

The 143 MPs belong to the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest and most conservative member of the three-party ruling coalition. At the council's inaugural meeting, the MPs said the apology would lead to a flood of compensation claims and encourage a distorted view of history.

The proposed apology was agreed last June between leaders of the LDP and the two other ruling parties, the Socialists and New Party Sakigake. Such a resolution, they said, would be appropriate to mark the 50th anniversary this August of the end of the war. Tomiichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, supports the Diet apology, as does Wataru Kubo, the secretary-general of the Socialists, who says the resolution should express strong remorse.

US experts fear China's collapse when Deng dies

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA after Deng Xiaoping could come under the rule of a nationalistic strongman, collapse or split into regions. The possibility of a liberal democracy is small. These are the conclusions of a recently declassified study commissioned by the US Defense Department, which gives a warning that "China is up for grabs once Deng passes away".

The report by American academics postulates a 50-50 chance that China would disintegrate under a post-Deng diffused leadership and internal conflict. Power in general will gravitate away from the centre.

The study differs from others which hold that what Peking terms the "collective leadership" with President Jiang Zemin as the core will be able to control China. Such studies attempt to resolve a paradox, unique in Chinese history, of a socially and economically turbulent China with a stable leadership. They describe a leadership of mediocre men, with no revolutionary charisma and little experience outside the party's eternal manoeuvring, who contrive to stay in power and maintain the reforms by Mr Deng in 1979.

The Defense Department study, by contrast, says there is "no apparent internal bal-

ance of political forces and Deng's death will create a political vacuum for both conservatives and reformers to move in". It argues that the present collective leadership may last no more than a year or two.

This scenario suggests that an emergent and powerful nationalistic leader, who may not be supported by the military, could threaten Taiwan, and the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, the sovereignty of which is under contention by at least five South-East Asian powers, and would impose discipline on Hong Kong, the management of which after 1997, has been committed for trial on a charge of threatening the Prince with unlawful violence. (Reuters)

Airport grant
Manila: Britain is to provide a £4.2 million grant to help improve security at Manila airport in the Philippines to allow it to meet standards set by the International Air Traffic Association. (AFP)

Bolger invited
Wellington: Jim Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister, has been invited to the White House ten years after Washington ended top-level relations over Wellington's anti-nuclear stance. (AFP)

Sound offence
Stockholm: The appeal of John Asotius, 41, against his conviction for shooting nine dark-skinned foreigners, one of whom died, was interrupted after he attacked his lawyers with a tape recorder. (AP)

Snappy dresser
Madrid: A Spaniard travelling from Cuba who tried to smuggle into Spain a live 2ft baby crocodile and a 2ft baby caiman hidden in his jacket lining was arrested at Madrid-Barajas airport. (AFP)

Jiang Zemin: claims to hold supreme authority

Many plots to oust him have been frustrated by his refusal to enter combat. In recent weeks, ministers have quit and been sacked amid scandals and intrigue while Mr Rao has said nothing in public. He holds more than a dozen portfolios, including defence, industry, space and

Rao sits out crisis in silence

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S reclusive Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, is hardening a worsening political crisis with techniques that have served him extraordinarily well in a lifetime of politics: taking frequent afternoon naps, staying silent, issuing no statements, avoiding the press and appealing to do nothing.

Many plots to oust him have been frustrated by his refusal to enter combat. In recent weeks, ministers have quit and been sacked amid scandals and intrigue while Mr Rao has said nothing in public. He holds more than a dozen portfolios, including defence, industry, space and

rural development, thus retaining phenomenal power. The files grow ever higher in his office but he is adamant he will read and sign only a certain number every day.

Mr Rao has held one press conference during his four-year tenure, and he rarely gives interviews.

He took the rare step a week ago of dealing decisively with a leadership rival, Arjun Singh, by suspending him from the primary membership of the governing Congress party, despite the dangers of again splitting the 109-year-old organisation. He calculated, correctly, that Mr Singh was blustering and

would be unable to muster the support to retaliate. Yesterday he gave Mr Singh more time to answer charges of anti-party activities by extending the deadline to Monday.

Important state elections this month and early in March could be decisive for Mr Rao's future. Crushing defeats in polls last December in two key states in the south, where the party is strongest, weakened him. The next round of elections will include the state of Maharashtra, the nation's economic heartland, where defeat would be shattering. Opinion polls suggest that no party will win an outright majority.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoners in Italy 'at risk'

Strasbourg: A report published by the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture claims that people detained in Italy, notably foreigners and drug offenders, run a "not negligible" chance of mistreatment in Italian jails.

The report, by a delegation that visited 14 prisons in Milan, Naples and Rome, also attacks "inhuman conditions" in some jails that can only aggravate matters. (AFP)

Trial ordered

Sydney: David Kang, 24, who allegedly attacked the Prince of Wales with a blank-firing pistol last year, has been committed for trial on a charge of threatening the Prince with unlawful violence. (Reuters)

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Netherlands battles to save lives and homes as torrents cause havoc across northern Europe



Life line: residents of the twin villages of Arcen and Velden in The Netherlands forming a human chain yesterday to reinforce dykes with sandbags along the river Maas near the border with Germany

Dutch flee villages in greatest flood escape for 40 years

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIJMEGEN

THE evacuation of 85,000 people has left the small communities in the Dutch province of Gelderland like ghost towns.

By noon yesterday, only 45 villagers were left in this small eastern region. They were refusing to follow the evacuation orders and refusing to believe that the dykes could ever break over them and unleash a torrent that would leave an area of almost 400 sq miles under water.

In Druenen, a village on the south bank of the river Waal, the silence was broken occasionally by the sound of a helicopter hovering above on the lookout for looters.

In four hours yesterday morning, Dutch police and troops carried out the largest evacuation in The Netherlands since the 1953 floods. In the lowlands to the west of Nijmegen, the people spent

most of the previous night packing and trying to lift their furniture to the upper floors of their little houses. At 8am yesterday they were told to get out by noon. Tens of thousands of people got into their cars with their families and their belongings, and then onto the narrow country roads, causing massive traffic jams.

Bram Verneulen, 20, who lives with his parents in the village of Wamel, was among the evacuees. "Our house has wooden floors. We put almost everything upstairs, but we had to leave the sofa in the hall, because it was too big." He said that most people had grown used to the water and its dangers. "The parents of my girlfriend — they are not from here but The Hague — were very afraid. There comes a moment when you have to leave home, when you have to

leave something behind. They couldn't save the piano. The mother of my girlfriend was crying. They then went to The Hague."

GERMANY

FROM ROGER BOYES IN COLOGNE

GERMANY'S flooded cities and villages yesterday enjoyed a brief respite from the rain that has swollen rivers and sent muddy water surging into tens of thousands of houses. But a new danger was emerging: as the temperatures swiftly dropped, there was the prospect of the slurry freezing. "Overnight the mud could well turn into a kind of cement," said Uta Kreienmeier, who is leading the mopping-up effort in Rolandsbeck on the Rhine. In Cologne, the wooden gangways connecting houses have become treacherous; children are slipping on the icy surfaces and plunging into the flooded streets.

Many people, like Klaus Krämer, a bar manager, were facing a cold and difficult night. For two days, he had been crouched up near the rafters of his Cologne pub guarding the liquor from boat-borne looters. The electricity has been cut off and the oil heater has begun to leak, adding to the stench and the misery. He said: "We would



normally have done a thriving business — there is an international sweet manufacturers' congress in town and the delegates would always pack our place out."

A Cabinet session today may set aside some modest emergency aid, but Bonn's main reaction has been to send in the army.

Cologne yesterday looked as if it was under martial law. Soldiers paddled through the streets of the Old Town district, delivering food, blankets and medicines and also functioning as an unofficial taxi service for stranded workers.

FRANCE

FROM SUSAN BELL IN CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIÈRES

EDOUARD BALLADUR, the French Prime Minister, yesterday visited Charleville-Mézières, one of the towns hardest hit by the floods that have swept northern France leaving 15 dead, 14 injured and

five missing. The flooding, which in many areas is the worst in memory, has affected almost half the country, with 43 départements partly submerged. Forty thousand homes are under water and 5,000 people have been evacuated. Ironically, 233,000 homes are without water.

As the Government prepares to declare a state of natural catastrophe to facilitate compensation, M. Balladur faces growing criticism from flood victims who are angry that money was not spent earlier on preventative measures. In Charleville-Mézières, the Meuse was expected to rise to 21ft last night.

Claudette Henriot, 50, was rescued with her husband yesterday morning from the couple's first-floor flat. "We were trapped in our home. The ground floor was completely submerged. Outside, the water came up to my chest. I have never seen anything like this," she said.

Photograph, page 22

Debate hots up on threat from global warming

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE downpours that have led to flooding over Europe have been caused by depressions from the Atlantic bringing rains and milder weather.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Office in Bracknell, Berkshire, said yesterday: "In a normal winter these weather fronts would affect us, but they have been pushed further into Europe. The higher temperatures have melted ice and are filling rivers."

The exact cause of the unusual weather, which has lifted the Rhine to its highest level in nearly 70 years, is likely to trigger a furious debate between scientists, environmentalists and politicians over whether man-made global warming has finally taken effect.

Computer models on the theory, which is linked to the build-up of gases from power stations and traffic in the atmosphere, indicate that not only will temperatures rise but that the weather will become more violent and unseasonal.

Over the past 12 months, campaigners warning of the dangers of global warming can point to a string of weather and natural observations to support their claims. The past eight out of ten years have been the warmest on record around the world, with temperatures in November in Britain the highest since 1659 when records were first kept.

The World Meteorological Office (WMO) in Switzerland said: "Above-normal temperatures spread from the south-west at the end of June 1994 and initiated one of the hottest spells that have ever afflicted Central Europe. July was the

hottest calendar month registered since the beginning of regular weather observations at several sites, including Hamburg."

The unusual weather conditions harmed agriculture, and triggered regional water shortages and fires in countries including Spain and Poland. They also led to smog alerts in Britain and Germany, the WMO said.

It emerged yesterday that tests carried out on the world's oldest tree, a huon pine, which has been found in northwestern Tasmania, indicate that the past 30 years have been the warmest for two millennia.

Dr Ed Cook, a timber-dating specialist at Columbia University in New York, said

ENVIRONMENT

that analysis of the tree's trunk rings had provided a temperature record for the past 3,800 years.

"Since the early 1960s it has been unusually warm and we have to go back 2,000 years to find a period of comparable warmth."

"In the past 3,800 years there has been only one other 30-year period that has been warmer than today's period," he said.

Sir Crispin Tickell, Warden of Green College, Oxford, and a member of the Prime Minister's environment panel, said yesterday: "The truth is that there is no conclusive proof about man-made global warming, but there is an accumulation of evidence".

Some scientists believe that sulphur from industrial pollu-

tion may have offset global warming by artificially cooling the earth and that this effect is on the wane as northern countries cut back on acid emissions from power stations.

Scientists who support the theory of global warming contend that the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 pumped enough dust into the air to offset pollution-induced rises in temperature. Researchers, including those at the Meteorological Office, have predicted that a rise, seen since 1982 but halted in the early 1990s, would return in 1994-95. "And to add behold it has," said Sir Crispin.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Office agreed, but added that some of the warming in 1994 may have also been due to the so-called El Niño effect, in which ocean movements in the Pacific have warmed the Indian Ocean and western North America, affecting worldwide weather patterns.

David Lindis, director of the World Weather Watch which is part of the WMO, said yesterday that it was impossible to say whether the globe was in the grip of man-made warming or the world was in a natural weather cycle that stretches back thousands of years.

"One of the things scientists have been very reluctant to do is pin a date to when global warming will occur. But what most scientists do agree is that if we are to continue to do some of the things we are still doing we will enter into a global warming state," Mr Lindis said.

Russia rebukes US over hostile Congress

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA gave America notice yesterday that the two former superpower rivals could be plunged back into a Cold War unless Washington halted its anti-Russian campaign.

In an unexpected outburst, the Russian Foreign Ministry accused the new right-wing Congress of destabilising the already uneasy relationship between Washington and Moscow. "The confrontational outburst in the US Congress is fraught with the danger of

seriously complicating our relations and does not reflect the national interests of the United States itself," said Grigori Karasin, the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

It was not clear what provoked the Russian warning, although Moscow has been on edge since the right-wing Newt Gingrich became the House Speaker and the conservative Jesse Helms won control of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr Karasin referred in particular to the "initiative of Congressman [Gerald B.H.]

Solomon," a Republican from New York who introduced legislation barring US aid to Russia unless Moscow met stringent new guidelines on intelligence, arms control and economic reforms.

Moscow was furious at the weekend when it emerged that the Americans had granted a visitor's visa to Yusuf Shamseddin, the self-styled foreign minister of the break-away republic of Chechnya. Mr Shamseddin met an official at the State Department a day after he denounced President Yeltsin as a "drunkard"

and threatened to "burn Moscow".

"These outbursts against Russia, against the developing US-Russian partnership, are probably simply the settling of internal scores, preparing for pre-electoral battles. But this does not change their destructive nature," said Mr Karasin.

The Cold War rhetoric has not been all one-sided, however. In the latest incident, Russian intelligence officials leaked a report claiming that American academic research centres in Moscow were front organisations for the CIA.

France calls for new talks on Balkans

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the former Yugoslavia seemed yesterday to be sliding inexorably towards a surge in fighting and anarchy, prompting France to call for yet another international peace conference on the Balkans.

The French proposal comes as Croatia prepares to expel the United Nations, secessionist Serbs in Croatia have sent international negotiators there away empty-handed, and President Milosevic of Serbia

implicitly has backed the rebels by refusing to see the negotiators. Serbs and Muslims meanwhile appear to be gearing up for a spring offensive in Bosnia as fighting broke out in Srebrenica.

The Paris suggestion also comes as Germany and America seem to be stepping back from their allies in Croatia and Bosnia. Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader in the Senate, said that moves to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims might be delayed, while Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign

Minister, launched a stinging attack on President Tudjman of Croatia for threatening to end the UN's mandate and implied that he was not doing enough to keep the Croat-Muslim federation together.

Britain believes that Bosnian peace hopes sparked by the truce negotiated by Jimmy Carter, the former American President, have begun to slip away. As a member of the five-nation Contact Group of negotiators — along with France, Germany, America and Russia — Britain is also unclear about what would be negotiat-

ed. "We are still considering our position, a government spokesman said. The French proposal is likely to be discussed when Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, meets his French and German counterparts at a meeting of the Turkish and leading European Union foreign ministers in London tomorrow."

□ Sarajevo: Serbian Serbs who kidnapped Namik Berberovic, 50, a Bosnian journalist, from a UN-armed car last week are demanding he be exchanged for two Serb POWs, UN officials said. (AP)



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Clinton to bypass Congress on aid for Mexico

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON abruptly abandoned a futile battle for congressional approval of a \$40 billion (25.6 billion) economic rescue package for Mexico yesterday and instead announced immediate unilateral action to support the piling peso.

Using his executive authority, Mr Clinton ordered \$20 billion in loan guarantees for Mexico from the US Exchange Stabilisation Fund. He announced that the International Monetary Fund could contribute another \$5.5 billion and the Bank of International Settlements short-term loans worth \$10 billion.

Mr Clinton's bold political move produced an instant surge in both the Mexican stock market and the peso, the value of which had fallen 45 per cent since devaluation on December 20 and on Monday reached an all-time low against the dollar.

The President said he was not certain his action would be enough to alleviate Mexico's financial crisis, but was convinced it "risks of inaction are greater than the risks of decisive action... We cannot risk further delay. The situation in Mexico continues to worsen."

He said that billions of dollars worth of exports and hundreds of thousands of American jobs would be lost if the Mexican economy collapsed. Mexico is America's third-largest trading partner and an estimated 770,000 American jobs depend on Mexican trade.

Mr Clinton said that financial instability could spread to developing countries throughout Latin America and the rest of the world, at that America would face a new flood of illegal Mexican immigrants and drug smuggling. Also at stake, though Mr Clinton refrained from mentioning it, was the international prestige and leadership of both America and its ally.

Mr Clinton acted after convening an emergency White House meeting yesterday morning, which Newt Gingrich, Robert Dole and other congressional leaders had bluntly told him there was scant chance of Congress swiftly, ever, approving his \$40 billion loan guarantee package.

Top administration officials, based by congressional leaders on both parties, had spent early three weeks trying to persuade congressmen that a package was not a bail-out and that taxpayers' money would be jeopardised because the Mexican Govern-

ment had agreed its oil revenues should be collateral for the loan guarantee.

Congressional reaction to Mr Clinton's announcement was mixed. The White House said Mr Gingrich, the House Speaker, Mr Dole, the Republican Senate leader, and other congressional leaders supported the President. Hank Brown, a senior Republican member of the Senate Budget Committee, accused the President of panicking.

Marcy Kaptur, an Ohio Democrat, said she would study the new package to ensure Mr Clinton "defends the American people against the American speculators", but believed the taxpayers had "prevailed in the first round of the debate over the proposed Mexican bailout".

Opinion polls showed overwhelming public opposition to a package that seemed designed to rescue a foreign country and Wall Street speculators while Congress is preparing drastic cuts in domestic spending.

However, public opinion generally has moved more Mr Clinton's way. Opinion polls seem to show that the less Americans see of Mr Clinton, the more favourably they regard him. He has kept a low profile since the Republicans seized control of Congress last November but his approval ratings have been edging up.

Most polls show that nearly half of all respondents approve of the President's performance, although that is still uncomfortably low considering America's economic health. Yesterday a Washington Post survey gave him a 54 per cent approval rating, up nine points in three weeks and his highest in ten months.

A Los Angeles Times poll on Monday offered one explanation: it suggested that public hostility towards Mr Clinton was based less on his politics than his personality. Of the 48 per cent who said they would probably or definitely vote against Mr Clinton's re-election, most based their opposition not on the President's specific policies but on the perception that he breaks his promises, lacks honesty or is too weak.

The Post poll pleased White House officials because higher ratings may deter a challenge to Mr Clinton for the Democrats' 1996 nomination. The previous day Bill Bradley, a respected Democratic senator from New Jersey, had given warning of a debilitating nomination battle if Mr Clinton had failed to improve his standing by the autumn.



Marcia Clark, the deputy district attorney, discussing a ruling by Judge Lance Ito with her colleague Christopher Darden in court in Los Angeles

O.J. Simpson 'at peak fitness' on murder night

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN AN extraordinary return to its opening comments, the prosecution in the O.J. Simpson trial yesterday rejected defence suggestions that the former American footballer was not fit enough to commit murder, saying he was in prime physical condition on the night his former wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ron Goldman, were killed.

Judge Lance Ito granted Marcia Clark an extra ten minutes to return to her opening statement in the light of a

spate of new witnesses introduced at the last minute by her opponents.

Ms Clark attacked the credibility of one witness, Mary Anne Gershas, who claimed to have seen four men running from Nicole Brown Simpson's flat on the night of the killings. Ms Clark said that Ms Gershas was an obsessive who had told a friend she was nowhere near the building at the time.

"She is a known liar and a Simpson groupie," said the deputy district attorney, "one of those people who comes out of the woodwork in high-

profile cases." An exercise video apparently challenges the defence claim that the athlete was too frail to have committed the double murder.

"The exercise video will show what his physical capabilities really were on the night of June 12," said Ms Clark. "How he prided himself on being in good physical condition." She said it included footage of Mr Simpson punching the air with regular jabs and uppercuts.

Ms Clark further attacked those representing Mr Simpson for allegedly misleading the jury about blood

samples that were found under Brown Simpson's fingernails.

As part of its plan to portray Mr Simpson as a wife-beating stalker whose jealousy led finally to murder, the prosecution called as its first witness Sharyn Gilbert, an operator on the 911 emergency line. In a tape of a 911 conversation from January 1989 played to the court yesterday, a woman could be heard screaming, followed by what sounded like someone being hit.

Mr Simpson denies murdering Brown Simpson and Goldman.

Scientists discover 'missing matter'

BY ANJANA AHUJA

AMERICAN scientists believe they have uncovered part of the "missing mass" of the universe. A particle called the neutrino, which is abundant throughout the universe and was previously thought to be weightless, does in fact have a tiny mass.

The finding, by scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, could help to unlock the mystery of "dark matter", which makes up 99 per cent of the universe but cannot be seen. Scientists have deduced the existence of dark matter from the way that galaxies are formed and the way they move. According to experts, the newly found mass might constitute as much as 40 per cent.

"We are being careful because we feel we have a high burden of proof. But we believe we are right and won't have anything to regret later," Dr D. Hywel White, the head of the Los Alamos group, told the New York Times yesterday. The research will appear in *Physical Review Letters*, a leading physics journal.

"This experiment is very interesting and very important," said Dr Gareth Jones, who conducts a dark matter research programme at Imperial College in London. Dr Jones estimated that between 20 and 40 per cent of "missing" matter could be recovered through neutrinos. "This is a very strong candidate to explain at least part of what's missing."

More tests are needed to pinpoint the exact mass, which has been estimated at no more than a hundred thousandth (0.00001 per cent) the mass of an electron, the next lightest particle. Unlike electrons, neutrinos carry no electric charge. They travel through Earth at nearly the speed of light, and at any instant a billion neutrinos occupy one cubic metre of space.

The Los Alamos experiment involved shooting a beam of protons at a tank of water to produce particles which then hit a steel shield and decayed into one type of neutrino. There are three types. The behaviour of the neutrinos could only be explained by assuming that they had mass.

Origins of squabble threaten extinction for hominid haven

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A FEUD between a celebrity fossil-hunter and Ann Getty, the billionaire and amateur scientist, is threatening one of the world's leading anthropological institutes with extinction.

Mrs Getty and her husband, the oil magnate Gordon Getty, helped to found and finance the prestigious Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, California. But the couple have fallen out with the institute's director, Donald Johanson, and cut off funds for his work. It was Dr Johanson who 20 years ago discovered the fossilised remains of a 3.2 million-year-old adolescent in Ethiopia who he nicknamed "Lucy", then considered the oldest non-ape ancestor of man.

The feud has split the institute, and resulted in a suit to force its closure and a state investigation into allegations of mismanagement. Lawyers began meeting this week to try to find a settlement. The Gettys helped Dr Johanson to set up the institute in 1982 after



Getty: her funds helped to found the institute

he enraged the scientific community by claiming that he had discovered an entirely new species named *Australopithecus afarensis*. Dr

Johanson's partner in the enterprise was another fossil-hunter, Tim White. But Dr White later fell out with his one-time mentor, and his discontent seems to have filtered back to Mrs Getty, who became one of his pupils at Berkeley University.

Relations between Mrs Getty and Dr Johanson apparently started to deteriorate when the charismatic anthropologist starred in a television series on the history of human evolution. The series virtually excluded the eight geochronologists at the institute who examine fossils to establish their precise age.

Soon afterwards, Dr Johanson started to hear rumours that Mrs Getty was seeking his departure. Last May Mrs Getty told the institute's board that Dr Johanson had to go. The board stood by Dr Johanson, and Mrs Getty retaliated by cutting his annual \$600,000 contribution to the institute. With funding from the Gettys, the geochronologists set up a new centre.

Algerian President promises vengeance against bombers

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT ZEROUAL of Algeria promised yesterday to "exterminate the monsters" responsible for the bomb that killed 42 people and wounded 280 in Algiers, the capital, on Monday.

The Government, shaken by the single worst violent incident since the guerrilla campaign against the French colonial government in the 1950s and early 1960s, threatened revenge against the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and other Muslim militant opposition groups that it blamed for the attack.

Newspapers yesterday said a suicide bomber drove a stolen white Fiat packed with more than 200lb of explosives straight into a building near the six-storey central police station. One paper said police had just enough time to fire a round at the car before the huge explosion that destroyed the police station. An approaching bus was also hit.

Mr Zeroual visited some of the wounded in hospital yesterday. "The whole world knows that the Algerian people and state will not yield before barbarism," he told them. "This type of operation gives us more strength and effectiveness in pursuing our struggle against these monsters until they are exterminated."

The official APS news agency said that 76 of the wounded were still being treated in the Mustapha Pasha hospital. Seven were in serious condition. One wounded woman, recorded on radio, told the President: "Do something to stop the bloodshed. We are innocent. I am the mother of a family. Do something, Mr President, so that my children can live in peace."

Mr Zeroual promised that he would stick to his timetable for presidential elections this year despite the opposition of all the main political parties, including the banned fundamentalist movement.

Monday's attack, the first by a suicide bomber during the three-year fundamentalist campaign, has brought warnings that the Algerian civil war is now entering a deadly new phase, with violence on a scale reminiscent of that at the height of the guerrilla war against the French.

It has also prompted fresh calls by outsiders for peace talks. The French Foreign Ministry, calling the bombing a "barbaric and blind attack", appealed for talks among all those who condemned terrorism and violence to find a peaceful solution.

□ Strasbourg: The Council of Europe condemned the bombing in Algiers. Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the council's parliamentary assembly, said yesterday: "The Council of Europe cannot remain silent on such acts which are opposed to the principles we defend," he told parliamentarians from 33 countries at the winter session of the pan-European organisation. (AFP)

Health officials estimate that more than ten million adults and about a million children have been infected with HIV around the world.

In 1993, about 35 of every 100,000 young American adults died from AIDS, while about 32 died from accidents, followed by cancer, heart disease, suicide and murder. Dr Jaffe said that AIDS is the biggest killer of young adults in 79 American cities.

Health officials estimate that more than ten million adults and about a million children have been infected with HIV around the world.

In 1993, about 35 of every 100,000 young American adults died from AIDS, while about 32 died from accidents, followed by cancer, heart disease, suicide and murder. Dr Jaffe said that AIDS is the biggest killer of young adults in 79 American cities.

WORLD SUMMARY

Rabin in U-turn over tax

Jerusalem: The announcement that Israel's centre-left Government is to scrap an unpopular capital gains tax only weeks after its introduction prompted sharp rises on the Tel Aviv stock market yesterday and raised questions about the credibility of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister (Christopher Walker writes).

The U-turn came after Mr Rabin ordered Avraham Shochat, the Finance Minister, to cancel the 10 per cent tax after swearing earlier that it would never be imposed.

Parishioner sues Senate chaplain

Washington: A Hollywood minister elected chaplain to the US Senate last week became the latest casualty of scandal after a parishioner claims he talked her out of having an abortion and then refused to offer counselling after she attempted suicide (Tom Rhodes writes).

The Rev Lloyd Ogilvie denies the claims by Elisabeth Saret, 29, who is suing him for fraud and for deliberately inflicting emotional stress.

Harare names first white hero

Harare: A liberal Englishman who fell foul of Rhodesia's authorities as a farmer in the 1960s and 1970s has been made Zimbabwe's first white national hero (Jan Raath writes). The move follows months of anti-white sentiment. Guy Clutton-Brock, 88, who died in North Wales on Sunday, was stripped of his Rhodesian citizenship for supporting black nationalism.

UN to police Haiti peace

New York: The Security Council has approved the creation of a 6,000-strong peacekeeping force to take over from the US-led coalition in Haiti by the end of March (James Bone writes). A resolution calls for the troops and 900 policemen to stay for a year. The peacekeepers can use force only in self-defence.

Bodies exhumed after ten years

New York: Police have begun exhuming the bodies of people who died in an Ohio hospital a decade ago to determine whether they were poisoned by a serial killer on the ward. A doctor said that he suspects a technician may have killed up to 30 patients by injecting them with a muscle relaxant.



Clinton: used executive powers to help Mexican economy, which supports 770,000 American jobs

HIV research gives go-ahead for kissing

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

KISSING, once included in the list of unsafe sexual practices has been given the all-clear. You cannot catch AIDS by kissing because a protein in saliva protects the white blood cell from infection, according to Dr Tessie McNelly, of the US National Institute of Dental Research.

Her studies confirm the experience of the past decade, which shows that it is extremely difficult to catch AIDS by kissing, even of the most passionate kind. The protein, secreted by leukocyte protease

inhibitor, attaches itself to the white blood cells and protects them from infection. Dr McNelly told a meeting of the American Society for Microbiology yesterday. Researchers have known for a long time that it is difficult to find any evidence of HIV in the saliva of people who are infected, and transmission of HIV through kissing remains unproven.

"That's why we were prompted to look for the physiological reason," Dr McNelly said. Just how the protein protects against HIV remains unclear, and there may be other substances in saliva that also contribute. Among these are proteins called mucins, which Dr

Earl J. Bergey, of the State University of New York at Buffalo, has shown can help by causing HIV to clump together. But even when many of these are removed, saliva still protects cells from HIV.

Dr McNelly tested a variety of saliva proteins to see which ones kept HIV from infecting blood cells. Only one seemed to work at the concentrations usually found in saliva. The protein is made by cells in the mucous membranes.

The finding could lead to new therapies. Dr McNelly said that it might be possible to inject the protein into the bloodstream, keeping HIV from blood cells.

Aids 'biggest killer of young US adults'

AIDS has surpassed accidents as the biggest killer of young adults in America, according to figures released yesterday.

In 1993 HIV infection became the biggest cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44. Dr Harold Jaffe, of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, said that more than 441,000 Americans have developed AIDS since 1981, and more than 250,000 have died.

Health officials estimate that more than ten million adults and about a million children have been infected with HIV around the world.

In 1993, about 35 of every 100,000 young American adults died from AIDS, while about 32 died from accidents, followed by cancer, heart disease, suicide and murder. Dr Jaffe said that AIDS is the biggest killer of young adults in 79 American cities.

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Gillian Bowditch on the terrible burden of a Scottish landowner who inherited a great estate and discovered he was penniless

When the laird is driven to the bottle

Godfrey Macdonald was only 22 when his father died, leaving him a sizeable estate on the island of Skye, a mansion, the family silver and the chieftain of the most powerful clan in Scotland. It was the sort of inheritance most can only dream of.

But within 36 hours of his father's death in 1970, the new Lord Macdonald of Macdonald, Chief of the Clan Donald, discovered that the entire estate was mortgaged and the debts run up by his father far exceeded the assets.

Lord Macdonald, who had been married for less than a year, faced a situation which is well understood by many of Britain's peers who are rich in history but poor in wealth. How do you maintain a sporting estate and a draughty old house on a minuscule income? He did what many have done before him: he took to the bottle.

Lord Macdonald, Gog to his friends, has spoken with refreshing honesty on BBC Scotland's *Moment of Truth* about his addiction and the burden of running a family estate. "If I had not been able to get conventional spirits I would have drunk meths or any-

thing. I was completely obsessed with the consumption of alcohol," says the Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdonald.

Like Lord Macdonald, many lairds from once wealthy aristocratic families have found the burden of a sporting estate too much. Rather than cut their losses and sell the family lands, they struggle on. No laird, conscious of the merciless judgment of history, wants to be remembered as the baron who lost the family land.

In recent years the combination of the recession, the Lloyd's debacle and the atrocious grouse and salmon seasons have meant that many landowners in Scotland have had to tighten their kilts straps and padlock their sporrans.

All are conscious of the fate of the Fraser family: their 160,000-acre Lovat Estate has been broken up after the death of Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, who left debts of £7.4 million. Even smaller sporting estates need a considerable income to maintain them. Colin Carter-Campbell, of Brodies, the

Scottish land agents, estimates that a Highland estate needs about £40,000 a year invested in it if it is to be properly maintained.

Richard and Anna Stead recently sold the Scottish island estate of Eilean Shona, just off the Ardnarnach peninsula, for £1.3 million. They had no idea when they bought the island, which has an income of £60,000 a year from oyster farming and holiday cottages, how tough life would be.

"We had no intention of vegetating, but we had to work much harder than we expected to make a go of it," Mr Stead says.

Further south, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester raised eyebrows when they announced they



Macdonald of Macdonald: "The estate was in hock"

were moving out of their Northamptonshire estate, Barnwell Manor, because of the cost of maintaining it, despite a £175,000 income from the Civil List and farm subsidies estimated at more than £230,000.

Lord Macdonald is adamant that he had no inkling of the

financial disaster which awaited him on the death of his father. The seventh baron had had an operation on his throat and had difficulty communicating. He had tried to warn his son of the problem and had tried to get his lawyers to do something about it, but it was too late.

"I had absolutely no idea," says Lord Macdonald. "I was still in shock from my father's death. The lawyer came up from Edinburgh and we all gathered together for the reading of the will. I was not prepared to hear what I did hear. The estate was in hock. There was talk of selling everything, even the house my mother lived in."

Everything else was sold, but the house was saved and Lord

Macdonald and his new wife, Claire, decided to run Kinloch Lodge as an hotel. Their joint income at the time was £40 a month. In the early days alcohol was a comfort and a refuge from the financial worries.

"About six months or so after my father died, I suddenly discovered that a little alcohol, and in those days it was a little, actually soothed the nerves. What appeared to be an insurmountable problem didn't seem so bad with a slightly light head," says Lord Macdonald.

Although the hotel became an international success, and Lady Macdonald became a renowned cookery writer, the debts did not clear and the access he had to drink became too much of a temptation.

"I was binge drinking. I would get completely and utterly blotto. I felt awful the next morning, the guilt, the shame. I thought I was concealing my drinking from everyone but that was just a joke," he says. "I had bottles hidden every-

where. I was drinking anything that contained alcohol."

Lady Macdonald says she realised the extent of the problem when her husband fell over drunk on the road one afternoon when they were out for a walk. He was good at concealing his drinking and they tended to socialise with other heavy drinkers. It was not until she threatened to leave him and take their four children to her husband's family that he sought help in English treatment centre.

He is now free from his addiction to drink. Lord Macdonald, a fit, able, modest man, knows the problems of the estate are far from over. He was recently criticised in the Highlands for allegedly casting his net in the Battle of Culloden by advertising \$250 plaques to Americans in a memorial garden to mark the 250th anniversary of the battle next year.

Now he is preparing his son Hugo for his inheritance and hopes that it will not be a burden. "Claire and I are doing everything we can to eliminate the debt," he says. "I would be liar if I said we are free from debt but I said we can live with it."

Floods that formed a nation

Dutch history is a story of battling with, and overcoming, the treachery of water, Peter Millar writes

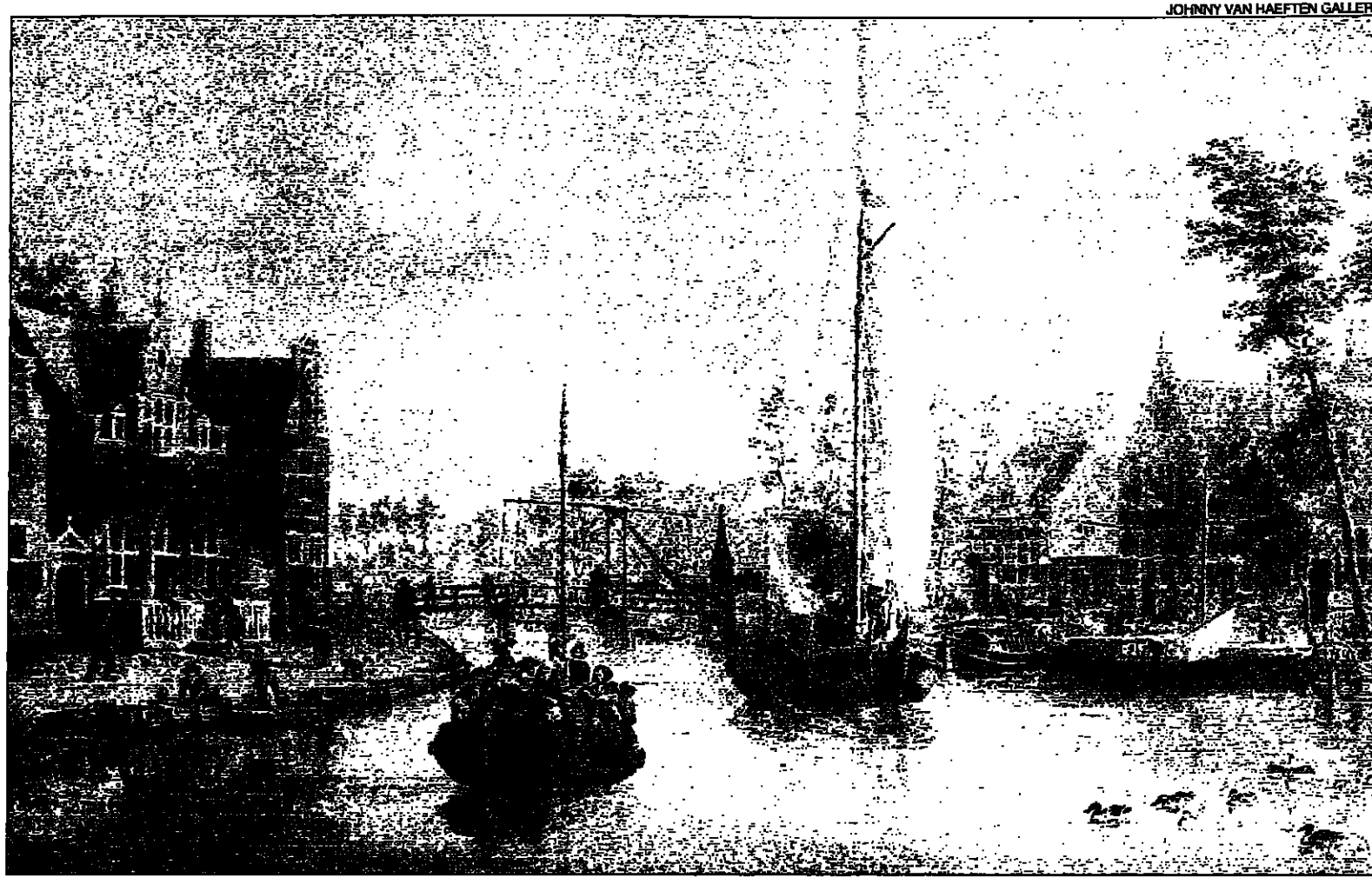
Since the dawn of history, great river deltas have offered mankind simultaneously the most attractive and the most dangerous places to settle.

The Dutch today, battling against the combined force of rain and surging tides to prevent their country being swamped beyond hope, may spare a thought for the Ancient Egyptians for whom the annual flood of the Nile brought both fertile soil and occasional catastrophes. The entire history of The Netherlands is bound up with its precarious existence astride the confluence of Europe's greatest river networks.

On at least one occasion, the sea came to the rescue. The history of the modern Dutch state began in the 16th century when the Protestant low countries rebelled against their

Spanish Catholic Hapsburg overlords and formed the United Provinces. In the wars of independence a Spanish army besieging the city of Leyden, several miles from the coast, was amazed to find itself under attack from a Dutch fleet: the rescuers had breached the dykes and flooded the land, swamping the besiegers' camp.

For centuries, as for houses, the most critical factors, as estate agents tell us, are "location, location and location". Over the centuries their location has brought the Dutch trade, floods and wars. What we call The Netherlands, reduced to pure geography, began as a cluster of settlements on patches of land in the deltas of the Rhine, Maas and Schelde rivers. Right up until early medieval times, these were shifting sands on which



Jacob Storck's *A Canal with Barges*: as the past few flood-filled days have suggested, Dutch efficiency is born of bitter experience over centuries

to build the foundations of a society.

The relative calm and efficiency with which the Dutch have responded to the disaster of the past few days — in comparison with the Japanese showing in the wake of the Kobe earthquake — is built on centuries of bitter experience. So far the floods have had nothing like the calamitous consequences of the great inundation of 1953 in which more than 1,800 people died.

8,000 homes were destroyed and 375,000 acres flooded. The total damage was estimated at the time to be worth more than £100 million. Of the four ancient elements, water is still the most implacable.

That flooding was caused primarily not by rain but by a ferocious storm whipped in off the North Sea by winds gusting up to 115 miles an hour. On the island of Tholen the sea swept away a dyke near the village of Stavenisse, de-

stroyed farmhouses and hurled them through the streets. In one night alone 200 people died. Yet with stoicism the Dutchers pointed out that the worst flood in their history had occurred nearly 700 years earlier, in 1287, when an estimated 50,000 died.

There have, in fact, been more than 140 serious floods in The Netherlands' recorded history. The statistic is hardly surprising, however, given that over 40 per cent of the

country's land mass is below the high tide level. Apart from building dykes to protect their farms, the Dutch have not so much reclaimed as aggressively stolen land from the sea. The canal network served a dual purpose in both the countryside and the great cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam: providing relatively secure channels and making them navigable for commerce.

The dykes — with the apocryphal story of the boy who

saw his town by plugging one with his finger — made The Netherlands what they are today. The greatest single work, completed back in 1932, was the great Afsluitdijk, which, translated, means simple "shut-off dyke". For that is what it did. It shut off the bulk of the Zuider Zee from the salt waters of the North Sea, thus allowing the fresh river water to take over. The result was the fresh water IJsselmeer, which can now be used to irrigate

crops rather than threaten them. The land behind has since been systematically dredged and drained. Since 1953 a network of more substantial reinforcements has also been erected. But the past few days have shown that the forces of nature may be held in check, but rarely conquered.

The intimate acquaintance of the Dutch with the sea made them masters of it as much as any island race. The Dutch rebellion against Spanish rule was based not only on religious grounds but on expectation of trading riches, both from their own expanding mercantile empire and from their control of the European sea lanes. Only the wars with the English — bitterly recorded by Samuel Pepys who had task of rebuilding the British Navy after the Dutch sailed up the Medway to Chatham and burnt it — limited the domination of the sea lanes.

Dutch domination of the Rhine delta is particular, however, has made their country a battlefield. Neither Napoleon nor Hitler could contemplate their continental domination — and their lands for blockades against Britain — without control of the Dutch ports. The seeds of Germany's destruction by 24F bombers were laid by its prosperity as a port. Fate and geography, however, decreed that the German economy miracle was also the motor of Rotterdam's regeneration and its assumption of London's lost mantle as Europe's premier port. The battle to reap the riches of their fertile lands and strategic ports while holding off the forces of nature has bonded the Dutch into a nation. But like any high-risk game, it has rules: you win some and you lose some.

Kate of the Rovers

ON MONDAY night Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, was amused to see herds of sports reporters let loose in the corridors of Westminster. Years of hobnobbing with football hooligans had still not prepared them for the raucousness of Parliament in full swing. "There was a bit of filibustering which made our debate start much later. I really did think you would be much better off at a football match where things are far more civilised."

Ms Hoey, 48, is one of the few people equally at home cheering from the Arsenal terraces or booing from the back benches. That evening she had the chance to bring her two passions together when she made a speech demanding a Government-led inquiry into financial corruption in football.

It was an outcry which will, she acknowledges, have made her several enemies. "There's a very blockish attitude to all this, especially if you're a mere woman," she says. "I was on the *Today* programme that morning with Douglas Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa and he was so patronising. It was so funny. But I don't want to be seen as a silly woman. I'm a supporter, I care and I know what I'm talking about."

The briefest glance at Ms Hoey's biography backs up this claim. As a child, growing up in rural Co Antrim, she would be taken by her father to watch Northern Ireland play at Windsor Park, Belfast. Ms Hoey would carry a folding stool, which she placed at the back of the terraces for a perfect view of her favourite player, Billy Bingham.

She was captain of athletics and netball at Belfast Royal Academy, and in 1972 beat Mary Peters to become the Northern Ireland high-jump

Julia Llewellyn Smith on Kate Hoey's outcry against football corruption



Hoey: "I liked the dignity"

champion. After the Ulster College of Physical Education, Hoey moved to London to take an economics degree. As the result of a conversation she had at a sports conference, Ms Hoey ended up in an extraordinary job as an adviser to the players of Arsenal, Spurs, Chelsea, QPR and Brentford. The aim was to teach apprentice footballers straight out of school about life in the real world: how to budget, make small talk, order wine in a restaurant and give a firm handshake.

HER involvement with Arsenal was rewarded when the team beat Liverpool to win the 1989 league, thanks to a last-minute goal from Michael Thomas, one of her brood. "I was fighting the by-election in Vauxhall and I wasn't allowed the evening off. In the end they allowed me half the evening and I got home just in

time to see that goal." She sighs at the memory.

Ms Hoey won the seal anyway, and her maiden speech was against the introduction of identity cards. She received a call from John Smith, sacking her as a Labour spokesman, just as Arsenal scored the winner in the 1993 FA Cup. "I had good and bad news," she said at the time. She has lived with the photographer Tom Stoddart ever since "things got serious" at the 1986 Mexico World Cup.

Like many diehard fans Ms Hoey is appalled by the game's tarnished image. Paul Merson, one of the players in that 1989 dream team is in drugs rehabilitation, while the Arsenal manager George Graham is alleged to have received £285,000 as an unsolicited gift, after the transfer of John Jensen from the Danish club, Brøndby. "I liked the image of Arsenal, the dignity, all the things now under attack," she says. "There is great disillusionment."

Far more people are interested in the outcome of the league than the intricacies of Maastricht, a fact the Government rashly ignores. Ms Hoey has abandoned her ambition to score the winning goal in the cup final in favour of promoting the game as minister of sport. "Football is generally treated as something unimportant, only a leisure pursuit. I hope that what I have said may give politicians a bit more credibility with young people."

And why should young people be involved in that most unsocialist world of competitive sport? "Because they learn to excel and to be disciplined," says Ms Hoey. "And they learn to lose as well as win." Important lessons for anyone, but especially an ambitious politician.

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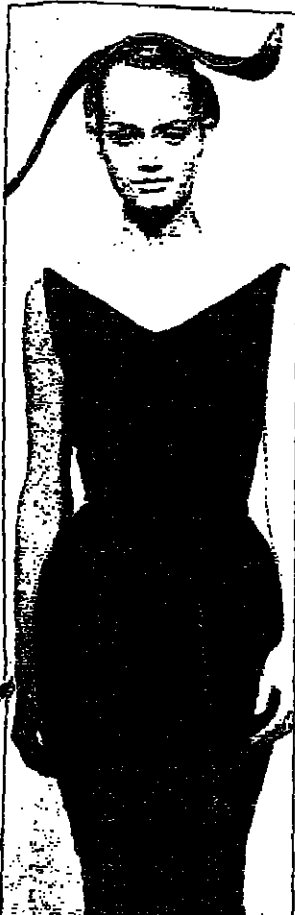
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PARIS: Lagerfeld and Lacroix dominate the couture shows with breathtaking displays of sophistication

Welcome to heaven on earth



GUY LAROCHE: Michel Klein's barely-there dress

The clothes which were paraded in Paris last week at the couture collections for spring/summer 1995 have little or nothing to do with the real world. They are the epitome of every little girl's dream — a supreme dressing-up-box fantasy. And, if you have the wherewithal (and it would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds), they would certainly provide the ultimate designer wardrobe.

Given that there is no limit to the excesses expected at these showings, there is often a tendency among designers to lose their heads. To add more feathers, more embroidery, more sparkle, and to send out models looking like queens of vaudeville. The flashy can so easily look trashy.

What a joy, then, to witness a season which advocates restraint, and makes a virtue of refinement. Last week's shows in Paris were dominated by two designers: Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel and Christian Lacroix. Both are notorious for their wild fashion antics. Lagerfeld is an arch magpie, reworking ideas from subculture and street, while Lacroix is the king of clash, a man who subverts bad taste and makes it good again. Yet both offered collections which personified *soigné* gentility.

This underplayed vision was far from lacklustre: it was

Fashion
by IAIN R. WEBB

the very embodiment of sophistication — how to dress if you have lashings of money and do not wish to look like a vulgarian. Their collections were, quite simply, heaven on earth.

At Chanel, Lagerfeld took as his inspiration the 1950s model Suzy Parker. For the most part his collection was the colour of rich caviar, blackest black. His silhouettes were honed to perfection — Shapely hourglass suits, with pencil-slim skirts just hitting the knee, curved effortlessly about the body — while the most understated button-through day dresses looked particularly demure. Narrow-fit sleeves ended somewhere between elbow and wrist, often with a flick-up cuff.

There was not one dress, or suit, or button for that matter, in the Chanel show which looked out of place. It was a pleasant surprise. Lagerfeld is known for his excesses at Chanel — his jokey accessories and nouveau riche styling — but with this collection he has shown that he has much more to offer.

Lagerfeld is, without doubt, a designer who understands the craft of haute couture: the simplest of little striped T-shirts, bearing the interlocking double-C logo, at first looked fabulously modern. On closer inspection, discovering that they are made up of a thousand tiny pearls, they are no less than the work of a genius.

Christian Lacroix's collection was equally breathtaking. Without losing his trademark bohemian opulence, Lacroix demonstrated the cleverest of fashion's conjuring tricks — he made less look more.

The clashing floral patterns and intricate lacework that he has made his own were still on

CHANEL: Karl Lagerfeld's *soigné* statement — sleek tailoring offset by an over-the-top feathered hat

show, but this time only hinted at. Fabrics were subtly faded, lace cast a shadow across a dress, a skirt of sparkling mother-of-pearl palettes was barely visible under another in floral chiffon, while flamboyant bustles hid behind elegantly slim silhouettes. Corseted bodices and pouffed skirts were evocative of *fin de siècle* gowns, when society danced till dawn. With this collection Lacroix waltzed into fashion's hall of fame. Deluxe and delightful.

Surprisingly at *couture*, the best the designers had to offer was intended for daytime. Valentino, Hubert de Givenchy, Gianni Versace and Gianfranco Ferré at Dior cut suits and dresses as sharp as the scissors in their ateliers. Michel Klein at Guy Laroche offered simplest black dresses which were equally uncompromising. Yves Saint Laurent, Ungaro, and Oscar de la Renta at Balmain also produced evening looks which were sumptuous without being silly.

It was a grand season for *couture* but, in a world where the fantastic is the norm, and dreams come true and parade down the catwalk, there was an overwhelming mood of reality. Virtually.



BALMAIN: Oscar de la Renta's swathed gown in baby-pink silk



SAINT LAURENT: A virtuoso performance in understated drapery



VALENTINO: The hourglass silhouette and a corseted waist



DIOR: Bold shapes in black and white — the look of the season

Photographs
by CHRIS MOORE

LACROIX: A fin de siècle gown in ice-blue silk and a ladylike corsage

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Upholding Westminster prerogative

John Biffen on the battle-lines for the next general election

The devolution carousel has come full circle. Abortive debates on the Scottish and Welsh assemblies dominated the 1974-79 Parliament. Undeterred, Labour again offers somewhat stronger assemblies and the questionable bonus of regional government for England. There is one crucial difference. Today, the Scottish Labour Parliamentary Party is predominantly in favour of an Edinburgh law-making and taxing assembly. The doubters have been reduced to the lone and persistent Tam Dalyell.

John Major, even at the last general election, denounced devolution as a threat to the constitution and to sound practical government. He has returned to the theme with added vigour in recent weeks, espousing the cause of the Union with every bit as much vigour as Margaret Thatcher.

Inevitably, he has sharply distanced himself from the devolutionist attitudes of Edward Heath. Surprisingly little analysis has been made of Mr Major's strategic judgment, for although the policy is decidedly risky, it could become a serious factor in the forthcoming general election. John Major wants to preserve relationships that have been patiently developed over decades. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have been making all the running — for a devolved or a federalised UK, John Major's task is to rebut them, not to counter with some alternative administrative upheaval. At last he has to behave like a traditional Tory and not some smart political technocrat.

The Prime Minister correctly judges that Northern Ireland can best be secured within the Union if there is a Belfast assembly. This sits uneasily with his hostility to a Scottish assembly, but at least the Northern Ireland proposals are only an adjunct of local government, with no tax implications. John Major also has to concede that the cause of the Union is at a low ebb in Scotland. Many Conservatives are underpinned by the present arithmetic. They argue that the strong unionist stance of John Major and Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, at the last election produced a modest revival in Tory fortunes when near extinction had been predicted.

These Irish and Scottish ambiguities may blur the constitutional debate between Labour and the Tories, but they do leave broad differences that will be increasingly argued. Under John Major's leadership, the Conservatives favour minimum constitutional change. The competence of Westminster will not be challenged, particularly by the establishment of a powerful and tax-raising assembly in Scotland. The clear rejection of regional government for England should check a burgeoning bureaucracy. There will also be plans for a Northern Ireland assembly, needing to be popularly endorsed by a referendum. Altogether, the Conservative position on the

constitution is necessarily conditional and somewhat lacking in logical rigour. That is no disaster. The general attitude is cautious, resolved to maintain traditional constitutional forms and to promote a unitary fiscal State.

Labour's attitude is a challenging contrast. Tony Blair is the innovator. He wants new centres of government and is prepared to gamble that devolution will placate rather than encourage Scottish nationalism. "New" Labour, cautious to a fault when considering fiscal, health and education problems, is avowedly reformist when dealing with the constitution.

We are beginning to learn that Europe is not essentially about trade; it is about the creation of new continental structures of government, potentially to the detriment of the nation-state.

This point was appreciated 20 years ago. Then, devolution legislation followed on the heels of the European Communities Act. Edward Heath was the most forceful Conservative advocate of both European membership and Scottish devolution. His opponents argued that the Westminster unitary State was being subverted from within and without, as power was transferred to Brussels and the devolved assemblies. At the time, the argument seemed plausible but theoretical. Today it looks more relevant. There is now a discernible trend. The European budget is expanding. There are European commitments to industrial, regional and social policies. These will match the long-established and notorious agricultural policy. Brussels will argue that monetary union necessitates economic convergence, which in turn will require a transfer of resources from wealthy EU states to the less affluent. Since the EU's objective is to diminish national authority, there will be a determined effort to establish a relationship between Brussels and the regions. Of course, this will be a hard battle. The British Treasury will cling like a limpet to its present power, but no one should doubt that over time an expanded Brussels budget will favour links with the regions.

Battle-lines are being drawn for the general election. As in the 1970s, the issues of constitutional reform and EU membership are linked. The Tories emphasise the constitution, the maintenance of Westminster primacy in fiscal and legislative affairs, the avoidance of sprawling bureaucracy and a referendum to confirm fundamental constitutional change. It is practically a septic's charter. Indeed if the Prime Minister can deploy a policy that so openly defends the constitution from the challenge within, who can doubt that he will contest the Brussels challenge of the single currency, increasing Commission power, majority voting and a stronger Strasbourg Parliament?

The author is Conservative MP for Shropshire North.



Accident in waiting

The Government is cutting services and destroying the principle of accountability

Today the House of Commons debates John Major's latest political gamble. It is bigger by far than his contortions over Europe. MPs are discussing the first cut, deep and true, in Britain's local government services for 20 years. Schools are already seeing millions stripped from their budgets. Roads, libraries, old people and the mentally ill will soon show the strain. I always take such scare stories with a pinch of salt, but I cannot see how ministers can avoid an imminent burst of appalling publicity.

For five years, local spending has been cushioned by billions of pounds of Treasury "guilt money". The equivalent of 4p has been added to income tax, first to ease the poll tax, then to ease the business rate, then to ease the council tax. Bribes poured in a torrent. At the start of the fiasco in 1987, central government in one form or another contributed 40 per cent of local revenue. At the end it contributes 80 per cent of revenue and caps the rest. Now local spending is to be cut in real terms by more than ever before in modern history, largely because the Cabinet has taken the power to enforce it. John Major believes the electorate will blame the councils and not him. And pigs will fly.

As we saw with the poll tax, local government leaves Westminster politicians and their hangers-on mystified. The subject is like a poisonous mist emanating from some far-off swamp. Sometimes it rises without warning and kills dozens of innocent MPs — Margaret Thatcher was among them in 1990. The rest of the time it is best avoided. On central government, Westminster is sophisticated and subtle; on local government any old cliché will do.

Accordingly, local government is inefficient, spendthrift and irresponsible. It cheekily demands a sovereignty it never had, to spend other people's money on services better supplied by the twin gods of the free market or a central agency. The sooner it is replaced by quangos the better and cheaper for us all. The man in Whitehall knows best, aided by Mr Major's new super-hero, "the person of business experience". This thesis was well exemplified in an article by Daniel Finkelstein and an editorial in Monday's Times. Let us take it apart.

British local government has no sovereignty. Yes it has. As the Commons bartered power from the Crown, so town and then county

councils bartered power from territorial grandees. Both based their legitimacy on the growth of the franchise in the 19th century. Most traditional local government services — such as police, schools and sewerage — were the result of a compact between local and central interests. Parliament had supreme sovereignty, but left local government to raise taxes and hire, spend or save at will. Two governments this century have massively breached this subsidiarity. The 1945 Atlee Government removed health and public utilities from local control. The Thatcher Government sought to

the education budget, 5 per cent more for the police and 13 per cent more for agriculture. A few councils may be extravagant, even crazed. So are most ministers. The beam is in the Cabinet's eye, not local government's.

Local spending is unaccountable. That is Parliament's doing. In 1987, when the poll tax was being planned, 60 per cent of local spending was within the discretion of councils, and only 40 per cent came from central government grants. A sensible reform of local government could have spread the rates burden more widely and made local councillors more answerable for it.

Local government is spendthrift. It is not. While Margaret Thatcher was screaming about overspending councils, local spending actually fell in real terms in each of her first three years in office. Her own spending soared. Even in 1985, the local rate was roughly in line with targets set by Crosland in his famous "party's over" speech of 1976. Thatcher's first Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine, was successful in curbing spending, which every year ran behind the rise in central spending (and does today). Some councils were and are spendthrift, but that is their business. The total of local expenditure is under far better control than central spending. The introduction of rate-capping and the poll tax was based on a whopping lie.

Local councils are politically motivated to extravagance. This is rubbish. Throughout the 1980s, Labour local government reduced its share of public spending, and was doing so long before capping. The trend continues. The chief engineer of public-sector inflation at present is Kenneth Clarke. Excluding items demanded by central government (such as the police), local spending next year will rise by less than 1 per cent in cash terms. Meanwhile, Mr Clarke has granted his colleagues 3.8 per cent more for health, 3.7 per cent more for social security, 4.1 per cent more for

common local tax rate, in effect a government property tax. Local fiscal discretion has all but gone. In the private sector, such stripping away of discretion is seen as destroying management responsibility and incentive. Diversity is the key to innovation and improvement. Britain has a more centralised public administration than anywhere else in the Western world. Ministers have never said why this is a good thing or given evidence of their supreme competence.

All this is irrelevant because centralisation is simply more efficient. Who says? Ask any expert to name the least efficient organisations in Britain and they will reel off the Prison Service, the (pre-trust) hospitals and the Ministry of Defence, all run by Whitehall. The least efficient police force has long been London's Met, run by the Home Office. Some left-wing councils are inefficient, but local democracy appears better able to deliver cost-effective public services than central government. The reason is that town and county halls are closer to raw accountability for public money than ministers and MPs. Nobody who lives and works in Westminster will ever believe this.

A sign of a small mind is that it cannot see the other side to its own argument. Lady Thatcher and John Major have carried out probably the greatest-ever cull of democracy in Britain. In 1900, the people of London elected 12,000 people to run their city. Roughly the same number run London today, but only 2,000 are elected, while 10,000 are appointed by Downing Street. The number of elected officials per voter in Western democracies varies from 1:250 to 1:450. In Britain it is 1:2,300. For all the smugness ministers show towards democracies elsewhere in Europe, Britain is on any definition the least democratic nation in the continent.

The Government is continuing to cap and cut local government spending, controlling this process from the centre. Experience shows that this will force up public expenditure and give ministers ever more to do and defend. In coming months, the pavements of Downing Street will see old people who have been expelled from hostels, parents rejected by their preferred schools, children shut out of libraries, park-keepers declared redundant and Tory voters demanding money with menaces. They will not hold local government responsible, for the sensible reason that neither does Mr Major.

Simon Jenkins

Just horseplay?

CANTONA has been banned from training. His recent antics mean he must be sidelined for at least two months. When there is no danger of his taking out his frustration with another furious kick, he will be allowed to run out again with his peers. In the meantime, he has been put out to graze.

The Cantona in question is a racehorse, a four-year-old gelding called Ooh Ah Cantona, which has career problems similar to those of the Manchester United player after whom he was named.

Last week, on the day that the two-legged Cantona stuck studs into a Crystal Palace fan, the racehorse was having foot trouble of his own. He was lame, a farrier was called and a special boot was fitted to protect the hoof. But in a fit of pique it was shed.

"The next morning we found he had kicked it over a four-foot fence into a stream. It took us three days to find it," explains Mark Rayner, assistant manager at Louella Stud, near Thirsk, where the horse, three times a winner as a two-year-old, has been wintering while recovering from a virus.

He was supposed to be going back into training but we will have

to put that off for a while. He's usually completely the opposite to the man on the pitch. I don't know what happened."

Lord Sterling of Plaistow is taking no chances when the Queen launches his company's new cruise liner Oriana in April. The PSO chairman is having the champagne bottle scored, so that it



Ooh Ah: Eric's namesake

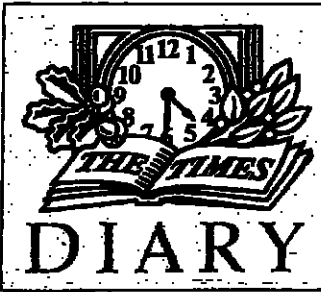
smashes properly and doesn't bounce back to catch Her Majesty on the nose.

Wet look I

THE PRINCESS of Wales's new "wet-look" hairstyle, which so puzzled New York on Monday night, has created consternation in London. The waxwork team at Madame Tussauds, which monitors celebrity hairstyles, is standing by. "We hope she's just experimenting, not radically altering her look," says a spokeswoman. "The last time she really changed her style we had to give her a whole new head."

Win towns

THE BURGHERS of Blackburn are looking with dollar-filled eyes across the Atlantic now that four residents have won more than £20 million in the National Lottery jackpot. The city is considering twinning with America's lottery capital, Fond du Lac in Wisconsin. Fond du Lac has spawned four multimillion-dollar winners in the past four years, including one couple who won \$111 million. The high street has been renamed Miracle Mile after its lottery outlets, and a delegation from Blackburn



could be imminent. "I've never heard of the town, but winning is something I will discuss with my colleagues," says Blackburn's Mayor, Edna May Arnold.

Wet look II

ALL HANDS were on the pumps yesterday at the Ambassador's residence in Bonn, as floodwater from the Rhine threatened to turn manicured lawns to swamp. The water is lapping the terrace where Sir Nigel Broomfield holds elegant cocktail parties on the Queen's birthday. Camellia buds are bobbing downstream. "It has already covered the garden steps leading down to the river," wails my man in galoshes. "But the minister's garden is much worse." The minister in question is Broomfield's number two, John

Shepherd who has lost his lower lawn. He can draw consolation only from the Ambassador's American counterpart. Gardens at the US ambassadorial residence are under several feet of water.

Pile up

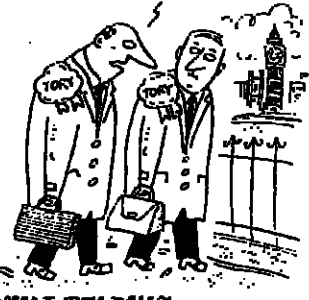
VIVienne WESTWOOD unveiled an unwearable collection of clothes made of carpets on Monday for an advertising campaign to promote Britons' carpetmakers to the Queen. "Of course, you can't really make clothes out of carpets," she said. "Terribly stiff and uncomfortable."

The shockingly innovative designer was most likely have yards of surplus rug on her hands in the near future. "We're thinking of replacing the carpets at our flat in south London. They're made of fake leopardskin." Fashion victims would be unwise to hold their breath for her Tarzan look.

Stan back

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS, who celebrates his 80th birthday today, does not leave an entirely untarnished reputation on the field. On the few occasions he used to kick about with RAF Blackpool, where he served as a physical

I HEAR DOUGLAS IS THINKING OF MOVING TO BLACKBURN



training instructor, he was something of a prima donna, according to a team mate.

"Station football could be pretty rough, so he used to play himself at left back," recalls Cedric Camp. "I would be at one end of the field attacking and I would look back and see Stan with his arms folded, leaning against the goalpost talking to the goalkeeper. He also used to shout at me a lot during games, telling me what to do, and the others used to say 'Why don't you tell him to get off the goalpost?'"

P-H-S

Alan Coren



If this is heroism, as they claim, then the world is a lesser place than of yore

Back in the high and far-off times, Best Beloved, when a newspaper was a newspaper and the status of an editor was such that his very name could deputise for Almighty God's when the general were groping for an acceptable oath, Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald, laid down an iron rule for his trembling staff. "A journalist," Bennett said (or, more likely, thundered, for that was what great editors tended to do, then, "must, like a lawyer, never ask a question to which he does not know the answer. The populace comes to us in bewilderment, relying upon us to resolve that unhappy state, and it is our duty to meet them with omniscience. The only questions permitted a responsible press are rhetorical ones." Good resounding stuff, eh? and, apart from anything else, a useful clue for all who may have wondered why Henry Morton Stanley should have been in any doubt, that morning in Ujiji. Clearly, he was not: since he had been sent there by Gordon Bennett, we may be sure that he would never have inquired, "Doctor Livingstone, I presume?" unless he was in absolutely no doubt whatever. He was just having a bit of a giggle.

A century on, however, things have changed. There are no certainties left, you and I know that we are all at sea in the same pitching sieve, and if I also happen to find myself there without a paddle, I feel, in this caring, sharing world, that I should be free to turn to you for succour. So since I have, today, a question to which I do not know the answer, but you just might, then I say to hell with Gordon Bennett, if any of you out there has children swinging on rubber-bands who want to open supermarkets and endorse breakfast cereals, please get in touch.

For that is what Jefferson King does for a living, or at any rate did until London Weekend Television gave him the thumbs down, this being what gladiators get when their services are no longer required; and though Nero, given his own predilections, might well have been sympathetic to an employee who did drugs, LWT dare not be, because Shadow, as Mr King is known when swinging on his Saturday night rubber-band, is, say his employers sternly, "a hero to millions of young children."

So my questions is: oh, is he? For I no longer have young children, and I thus no longer know what young children and heroism. But I need to know this, because I have seen Gladiators, and what is this chunky, varnished, glowering epiphany do to swing from the ceiling on long rubber-bands in the hope of knocking others off their feet, so that the well-rehearsed claque below will thrash themselves into shrieking ecstasy and thus encourage viewers to turn out in droves when these great stars go off to inaugurate fresh blights on the hitherto unspoiled landscape, at enormous fees, or reappear, in plastic miniature, in jumbo packs of overpriced roughage.

Well, it doesn't seem much like heroism to me. But then it wouldn't seem much like heroism to me even if they did it wearing Fred Perry's flannels over Douglas Bader's tin legs and Ian Botham's box and holding them up with one hand wrapped in Henry Cooper's glove while swinging with the other, it would still seem like a catchpenny parody of heroism which differed from the arcade games that generated it only by virtue of the fact that Sonic the Hedgehog never gets his private life in the raunchier tabloids. That is why I want to know from those of you with young children whether or not, as LWT claims, it seems heroic to them.

Because if it does, and if the nation's gawping toddlers are being encouraged to aspire to the condition of pumpkin-thewed y-boys whose mission in life is to whip the mob to hysteria for the greater glory of mass-merchandising, then the fact that their thews go that way by the regular binfuls of testosterone, stanazolol and oxymetholone to which Mr King has shamefacedly confessed should be the least of our worries.

For ought even hormonally unimpeachable gladiators be the glass wherein the country's youth do dress themselves? It isn't your answer I need, it's theirs. And if it's yes, then maybe LWT should sack everyone.

JP 11/20/95



GOVERNORS OF IRELAND

A framework that is not yet a frame for peace

Today, *The Times* discloses details of the joint framework document for the future of Northern Ireland, which officials have said is "on the last lap" of negotiation. This document, drawn up by the British and Irish Governments, is the blueprint for change upon which the future of the peace process rests. Its details have been long-awaited: they are potentially of far greater importance than the Downing Street declaration which heralded the IRA ceasefire.

The Northern Ireland Office and Dublin will probably claim that the document is not absolutely final and will be further amended before publication. That might be so. The version seen by *The Times* requires more than partial amendment to make it acceptable to the majority in the North. At its heart are proposals for joint authority which most Unionists will find unconscionable. In this form, the document will not secure the consensus in the Province needed for the peace process to become a lasting peace.

Last week, John Major reassured a group of Ulster council leaders that the joint framework document would contain no "provision for the British and Irish Governments to exercise joint authority over the affairs of Northern Ireland". Strictly speaking, his remark was accurate. The proposals in the document as it stands are not for joint authority between Dublin and London but for a similar arrangement between Dublin and the representatives of Ulster's new administrative assembly. The difference is important but not fundamental. The fundamental point is that, under the plan, the Republic would obtain a range of executive responsibilities over the affairs of the North and — most importantly — would be encouraged to seek more.

The new North-South body would have control of "sectors involving a natural, physical all-Ireland framework" and "EC programmes and initiatives". It would also be expected to "harmonise" policy throughout the island in health, education, social services, agriculture and economic affairs. Precisely what is meant by "harmonisation" has never been clear. Brian Faulkner, the

former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, considered such talk "necessary nonsense" in his dealings with the South at the time of the Sunningdale conference in 1973. But nationalists then — as now — regarded harmonisation of policy across the border as the logical prelude to unification.

The document makes clear that the new institution will extend its powers as the years pass. "The remit of the body," it says, "should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension of its functions to new areas." The disastrous failure of Sunningdale and the Council of Ireland two decades ago should act as a warning to those who believe that cross-border institutions can be established without provoking Unionist outrage.

The Unionists have already made their position on Dublin's involvement in the North clear. They regard the planned administrative assembly as the key to future reform and the development of a mature democracy in the Province. They accept the need for an "all-Ireland dimension" reflected in representation for Dublin on the assembly's committees. But the arrangement set out in the draft document is quite different in spirit and substance. It makes membership of the new body compulsory for departmental heads of the administrative assembly. It makes the body the focus of the reform package. It implies a gradual transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom to an institution which the world would come to see as the government of a united Ireland.

Eleven years ago, Margaret Thatcher promised that unification, confederation and joint authority were unacceptable on the ground that they represented a "derogation of sovereignty". A year later, the Anglo-Irish agreement had been signed. Lady Thatcher has since written that she regrets that this deal with Dublin was struck. Far more than the Downing Street declaration, it is the basis of the historic agreement which is now being finalised. A road has been marked out which leads — if it leads anywhere — to joint authority and eventual unification. It is for the British and Irish Governments to prove that it also leads to peace.

ROCKY RAILS

Once lost, services and markets are hard to recover

A predictable storm has greeted the Government's announcement that private rail operators will not have to meet the same strict service requirements on certain routes as British Rail. Tony Blair asked the question that must be on the lips of every frustrated commuter: if privatisation, which has already meant cuts to some services and a reduction in through-ticketing, cannot guarantee the existing level of service, what is the benefit in breaking up the public network?

The Prime Minister's answer is that there is no question of cuts: the heads of the train operating units, the present British Rail shadow franchisees, have promised to improve the service on the four routes dealt with yesterday. Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, went further: the new public service requirements were the first guarantee the public has had that the railways would run a regular and reliable service. The minimum level was set low on viable lines in order to give the commercial operators "space" to improve the service.

The Government shows every sign of being in retreat from its earlier commitments. In January 1993 John MacGregor, then Transport Secretary, gave Parliament an explicit commitment that the franchises would be awarded on the basis of the present timetable. Last December Mr Major modified this by saying they would be "broadly" in line with the timetable. Now Dr Mawhinney requires the Great Western to run only 80 per cent of its services and the Gatwick Express only about 55 per cent.

The promise by the directors of the four

train operating units that they can all exceed the minimum is no guarantee of future service when the commercial franchisees take over from British Rail in 1996. Imaginative marketing and exploitation of the lines' potential should mean better services all round. But this will take time, and money will be tight. Inevitably, the public fears, the minimum service will be the actual service — at least for a while.

Moreover, it looks as though the Government has assumed that cuts will be made. After the confrontation between Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, and Dr Mawhinney over the threatened cuts in present services because of the £400 million Treasury shortfall, money was restored to fund certain services. These reprieved services are the same as those no longer essential under the future public service requirement.

Dr Mawhinney has a difficult balance to make. If he insists on a high level of service on unprofitable lines, he will drive away even the lukewarm commercial interest. If, however, he sets a low level of service, the inevitable cuts will rouse the public fury that has already surrounded the threat to the Fort William sleeper. His aim must be to make the franchisees saleable so that commercial money can be invested in the services. Eventually a bold franchisee will find ways of boosting services and revenue. But for the next three years running the railways will be hugely expensive, forcing BR and then the franchisees to cut services to the bone. Once lost, both services and markets are hard to recover.

LUCK, BE A LASSIE

Oh to break the law of averages

Blackburn used to municipalise the Lancastrian principle that where there's muck there's brass. The fortunes of the mill town have dwindled from its days of soot and shiny metal. But since the arrival of the National Lottery, Blackburn has polished up its name. It has become the Las Vegas of the lottery: where there's Blackburn luck, there is thought to be a better chance of winning.

From the win of £17.8 million by a Blackburn factory worker in the first "rollover" draw to last week's win of £2.3 million by an unemployed single mother, no fewer than four top winners in 11 weeks have come from the town. It has become a black Saturday when that fat finger of fortune does not point down from the sky to select one of the town's 200,000 residents as a millionaire. Such is the superstition of propinquity that punters are driving in from Liverpool to buy their "lucky" tickets in Blackburn, as pilgrims went to Canterbury to improve their luck by a change of address.

Those who try to pick up *Dame Fortune* by loitering where she was last sighted have an average chance of ending up in bed with her disappointing daughter, Miss Fortune. Probability theory states that even when a coin has landed heads 49 times, the odds for and against it landing heads a fiftieth time remain at 50:50 — the same as they were for the first spin. But humankind cannot bear very much of that absurd mathematics. Man is a pattern-making animal. We

think we see a man in the moon. So we detect regularity in the turn of a roulette wheel or the falling balls of the lottery. But our understanding of chance is not as sophisticated as our ability to find order in chaos.

The mathematical laws of large numbers developed from the examples of tossing a coin, rolling a die and drawing a card. In the same way that astronomy grew out of astrology. But most punters find such popular instances of probability more intelligible, and more fun, than any theory. They have a healthy disbelief in statistics and a strong faith in luck. Even Pythagoras, the father of mathematics, thought that there was a divinity in odd numbers.

The official statistics are unsurprising, as statistics generally are. More money is being wagered on the lottery than predicted. Apart from the golden blip of Blackburn, winners have been distributed regularly around the regions. Britain's most successful lottery outlet is the Lombard Street post office in the City of London, where syndicates of workers show that the dash for dosh has not become wholly unfashionable.

Of course we know that random means random. Winning numbers pay no more heed to geography than to four-leafed clovers. But if somebody from Blackburn were to win again, probability theory would address an empty hall. Even Pythagoras would be up there buying his lottery — all odd numbers, for luck, naturally.

Western aid and Chechen crisis

From Mr David J. Walker

Sir, Few of us can have failed to be moved and impressed by the measured tones in the letter from the Chechen Ambassador at Large to the EEC (January 26).

Everyone who has witnessed, even from this distance, the struggle of the Chechen people to reassert their independence and to reverse their conquest by Russia must be overwhelmed by admiration and awe at the determination and heroism of their fighters, and by the steadfast support provided by their people as a whole in the face of a barbaric onslaught.

Russia's response is abhorrent and an affront to civilisation everywhere. There can be no doubt that the Russian empire will be further reduced in size in the coming years, and the only question is how much carnage and suffering will be imposed on its colonised and mistreated neighbours before the empire is finally broken up and contracts to its proper borders.

Meanwhile the craven timidity of the British Government is distressing. Western aid is the support that permits this atrocity to continue, and no strategic imperative dictates that we should connive in holding together a doomed empire.

I urge concerned citizens to lobby their MPs to speak out (Europhiles may wish to ponder also the continuing power of nationalism). And I salute the Chechens.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WALKER,
7 Abingdon Road, Ws.
January 26.

Fisheries policy

From Mr James Provan, MEP for South Downs West (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Those rebel MPs who stood on the quayside at Lowestoft (report, January 26) demanding British withdrawal from the common fisheries policy (CFP) are guilty of helping to lead British farmers up a blind alley if they believe that unilateral withdrawal from the CFP will cure the ills of the industry.

If we did withdraw we should be effectively pulling out of the Community. There would be no effective means of controlling our nation's fishing effort and we should return to pre-CFP days when there was a free-for-all, when we fished herring almost to extinction and only a five-year ban allowed the North Sea stock to recover. Before the CFP came into force almost 500 Spanish boats fished the western waters. Next year, no more than 40 are to be allowed. Spain's full integration into the CFP is tightly linked to no increase in overall fishing effort.

I accept that the CFP is not perfect, but to ditch it with no credible alternative would be madness. The right way forward is to find better approaches to conservation and more rigorous methods of enforcing controls. All EC fishing nations, including the Spaniards, are reducing their fleets to match agreed targets. It is a multinational problem, requiring Community-wide solutions.

I am, yours sincerely,
JAMES PROVAN
(Conservative fisheries spokesman),
European Parliament,
rue Belliard, 1047 Brussels.
January 26.

Car thieves

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Putting aside the issue of the Clegg case, is it possible to encourage the media to stop talking about joyriders, when they mean thieves?

So-called joyriders have killed and maimed innocent people in car crashes: these are the real victims. No more euphemisms please about shop and car thieves, unless the next seedy crook who breaks into your home is to be called a video-lifter.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.
January 26.

On the list

From Miss Olga Calnan

Sir, I suggest that not only buildings should be listed but so should their immediate surroundings (letters, January 3, 6, 11, 20, 24).

I live in a conservation area; I cannot alter my house without permission. Yet Camden Council has, in the opinion of many residents, ruined the historical townscape of my street by removing all the paving stones and substituting badly laid and unsightly black asphalt. This was done without consultation with residents — a notice sent out by the council mentioned only "road-strengthening measures".

Yours etc,
OLGA CALNAN,
26 Delancy Street, NW1.

Yesterday's letter from Mr Geoffrey Martin should have been headed "From the Head of the Representation in the United Kingdom of the European Commission".

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Versatility of electronic organ music

From Mr Robert Venables, QC

Sir, In the debate over the Bradford organ which the Yves Guishanne Foundation is donating to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford (letters, January 28) some positive advantages which a digital organ has over a pipe organ have been overlooked.

Cost aside, the chip can store the specifications of several different organs. The player can switch in seconds from, say, a 17th-century baroque registration in unequal temperament to the more familiar English Edwardian sound. The proposed organ will have initially four different specifications, including a (French) Cavailé-Col, the like of which is not to be found in Oxford. The widely differing musical uses to which the Sheldonian is put make this facility tremendously attractive. A baroque pipe organ would be fine for playing Bach or Buxtehude, but useless for a romantic organ symphony or the works of Messiaen. A facility which enables the player to record his performance and have it recreated afresh will be enormously useful in a university.

While the many traditional pipe organs built in Oxford over the past quarter century have been of largely foreign extraction, the Bradford organ is wholly the fruit of British research in the department of computing science of Bradford University, and its profitable exploitation in partnership with the commercial firm of J. Wood & Sons Ltd.

The Bradford organ will be voiced for the building as sensitively as any pipe organ. The consultant will be the internationally renowned recitalist Simon Preston who, despite his own avowed preference for a pipe organ, has graciously and pragmatically agreed to accept the decision of Oxford University and to help create as fine a digital instrument as possible.

While it cannot be realistically expected that the pride of distinguished musicians who unsuccessfully opposed the experiment will thereby be appeased, the demonstration will give the public the opportunity to make up its own mind.

Yours truly,
ROBERT VENABLES (Director),
The Yves Guishanne Foundation,
61 Harrington Gardens, SW7.
January 30.

From the Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey

Sir, The debate on the Sheldonian organ should not be affected by the admittedly generous donation of £50,000 for an electronic instrument.

Research hurdles

From Professor Bob Spence, FEng

Sir, For me, research has three essential constituents: visions, plans and opportunistic actions. Professor Braben (letter, January 28) correctly identifies plans as the unfortunate focus of many fund-awarding bodies. Much if not all of my ultimately successful research was initially viewed with scepticism, often by academe from which peer group referees are frequently drawn, and the results — both commercial and conceptual — could in many cases not have been foreseen six months beforehand. Both visions and opportunistic actions played a large and very important part.

The need to formulate plans concentrates the mind beautifully, and this need should not be forgotten. But, like once vitally important items such as banana skins and bus tickets, plans should also be regarded as potentially disposable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SPENCE,
1 Regents Close, Whyteleafe, Surrey.
January 28.

Uncoordinated NHS

From Dr Edward Stonehill

Sir, There has been considerable press coverage in recent weeks of NHS doctors spending hours, when minutes may be critical, telephoning around to find intensive care beds. Intensive care is an expensive service and it is inevitable that sometimes beds will be in short supply. Surely there is a lesson to be learnt from the world of commerce.

Every retailer has a stock control system. Is it beyond the ingenuity of the Department of Health to authorise the installation of a nationwide computer network at all acute NHS hospitals so that information on intensive care beds is available to staff at the press of a button? Or perhaps it is beyond the wit of the current administrative staff to provide such co-ordination within a fragmented system. Mrs Bottomley should turn to the senior management at any of our major retail chains where the expertise lies.

Now that the NHS follows some of the rules of a market economy, a co-ordinated computer network could also, in a trice, indicate such information as the shortest waiting time for hip replacement surgery and its cost. The possibilities are boundless. Or will we continue to live in the dark ages and expect our highly trained staff to communicate with one another through carrier pigeon?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD STONEHILL,
(Executive Medical Director,
Charter Hospitals, London),
Charter Nightingale Hospital,
11-19 Lissos Grove, NW1,
January 23.

In my opinion, no electronic organ has anything like the quality of a good pipe organ, either in its sound or — which is of vital importance to students — in its touch. Would any other faculty of the university be prepared to accept inferior equipment?

As your leader (January 25) surmises, J. S. Bach had he been alive today, might well have come up with something new. But even if he used chips and microcircuits, he surely would not have been satisfied unless the end result were an improvement musically, which electronic organs certainly are not.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN NEARY,
2 Little Cloister,
Westminster Abbey, SW1.
January 25.

From Mr Sean A. Farrell

Sir, As organist of Denstone College, Staffordshire, from 1990 to 1991 I played a digital computer organ which is of the same make and specification as the one in Worcester Cathedral commended by the chairman of the Sheldonian curators (report, January 25). During those 12 months the instrument proved most unreliable on a number of occasions.

To suggest, as does your leader, that organists who prefer pipes are simply behind the times is rather like suggesting that York Minster's south transept roof should have been restored using concrete and steel.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN A. FARRELL
(Assistant Organist),
Wakefield Cathedral, Northgate,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.
January 26.

From Mr David Watson

Sir, Today's leader entirely misses the mark. Of course electronic instruments have their place. The cathedral-like acoustic of Keble Chapel makes the new electronic organ there a worthy substitute for the college's now defunct pipe organ. But the Sheldonian is neither a resonant cathedral nor a large concert hall. To replace its ailing end-of-Empire pipe organ with an electronic equivalent would be quite inappropriate.

A golden opportunity exists to enhance one of Europe's most beautiful music rooms by installing a modern pipe organ in the classical tradition. That opportunity should be taken.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WATSON,
2a Charlbury Road, Oxford.

Church and 'socialism'

From Mr Richard Hogg

Sir, Your correspondence on the Church of England and "socialism" (January 17, 19, 27) addresses the heart of the problem confronting the Church — its steady decline into a sect.

Of course the Church has a pastoral/social role in society, but this is a secondary activity. It must always be subject to providing that spiritual dimension we all need and to which many will subscribe. Many of the clergy I meet are so obsessed with social issues that I seriously doubt whether they have any serious understanding of religious experience. I fear they have neither the time nor the inclination to indulge in the depth of contemplation and meditation necessary to achieve a transparent religious dimension. This dimension is fast disappearing from the Church, along with the true believers from the pews.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD HOGG,
18 Clifton Park,
Clifton, Bristol, Avon.

Cornish economy

From Mr Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South East (Conservative)

Sir, I was born near Plymouth, have lived and worked in Devon and Cornwall virtually all my life and later this year will have completed 25 years as the MP for Bodmin (pre-1983) and Cornwall South East. I have to say that I did not recognise the part of Cornwall I represent in your correspondent's analysis of the current situation in the county (reports, January 23). Indeed I would suggest that she has done a positive disservice to those in business and commerce, to local authorities such as Caradon District Council, and to organisations and individuals who are seeking to promote and secure Cornwall's future.

There was no mention of the importance to the economy of South-east Cornwall of the winning last year of the Trident re-fit contract at Devonport, the consolidation of HMS Raleigh at Torpoint as the shore-base for the initial training for all the non-officer intake into the Royal Navy, the political significance of the decision to locate the Government's integrated regional office in Plymouth, and the designation of the county as being eligible for both European and UK regional funding. Just outside Saltash we will soon have a 300-acre business park prepared for major inward investment — the largest such facility in Devon and Cornwall.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HICKS,
House of Commons.

Gap in health care for older women

From Mr Ian S. Fentiman

Sir, It is heartening that breast cancer screening is being changed so that two different mammograms will be taken of each breast instead of one (report, January 27). This will lead to some increase in detection rates for early breast cancer.

However, if we must accept that tight budgets mean we cannot do everything, at least we do need to get our priorities right and in this case I believe first call on resources should be screening women aged 65 or over.

Out of 30,000 women who develop breast cancer every year, half are over 65; yet this age group are not invited to come for screening as part of the national programme and have to struggle to get mammography.

In Guernsey, where there is no upper age limit for screening, twice as many cancers have been detected per thousand women screened compared with the UK. Many cancers picked up by screening can be treated without removing the breast and the women have a good chance of being cured.

If nothing else, a feasibility study should be conducted to look at uptake in women aged 65 or over. How much longer will the health of older women be compromised by an apparent lack of interest in detecting potentially curable disease?

Yours faithfully,
IAN S. FENTIMAN
(Deputy Director),
Imperial Cancer Research Fund
Clinical Oncology Unit,
Guy's Hospital, SE1.
January 28.

Rejected history

From Mr James Arnold-Baker

Sir, Following your report, "Historian falls foul of politically correct lobby", and leader, "Academically incorrect" (both January 30), I would like to put into context Oxford University Press's decision not to publish Professor John Vincent's *A Very Short Introduction to History*.

Professor Vincent, a respected scholar who has been published by OUP in the past, was invited to submit a proposal for a volume on history in a series of introductions to a variety of academic disciplines, aimed at sixth-formers, undergraduates, and the general reader.

Advisers' reports on an early draft of the book identified a number of important areas which needed to be covered in greater depth and it was agreed with Professor Vincent that these should be addressed in the final typescript. They included social history, ancient history, and European and American history.

Despite the early identification of these issues, they were not addressed in the final typescript to the extent that OUP felt necessary, given the objectives and intended readership of the series in question.

The question of "inclusive language" or "political correctness" had no bearing whatsoever on OUP's decision not to publish the book.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ARNOLD-BAKER
(Secretary to the Delegates and Chief Executive),
Oxford University Press,
Walton Street, Oxford.
January 30.

Wet in parts

From Commander Bill Peppé, RN (ret'd)

Sir, You report today that "We" are on course for the wettest January since 1948. "The normal amount of January rain is 1.72in." Where, I wonder?

The average January rainfall here is around 14in. to date we have had 12in and since it is raining quite hard just now we are probably on course to be about average.

Yours faithfully,
BILL PEPPE,
Glendrynch Lodge,
Carbost, Isle of Skye.
January 30.

Dressing down

From Major-General Peter Baldwin

Sir, This question of "dressing down" (report and leading article, January 26) goes back a very long way. When I joined the staff of the War Office in 1958 it was clear that I needed a tweed suit to wear on Fridays. We all felt we had to give the impression that we were off to the country at close of play, even though, in my case, it was suburban.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BALDWIN,
Acoms, Oak End Way,
C Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
January 26.

Stating the obvious

From Mr Richard Stevenson

Sir, A new sign has appeared in the Central Milton Keynes Shopping Centre.

It reads "Open 7 days a week including Sundays".

Yours faithfully,
R. A. STEVENSON,
67 High Street,
Whitchurch,
Nr Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
January 27.



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE

January 31: The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Purdon on relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Rhodri Thorne on assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness later visited The Queen's Flight at Royal Air Force Benson, Oxfordshire.

Major Patrick Tabor was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Oxford and was received by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Heywood-Lyonsdale, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

His Royal Highness inspected progress on the construction of a new quadrangle at Magdalen College and took part in the burial of a time capsule.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Schizophrenia A National Emergency (SANE), afterwards attended a briefing on The Prince of Wales's International Centre for the Research into Schizophrenia and Depression at the Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital.

Mr Stephen Lamport was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening gave a Reception for arts and heritage organisations at St James's Palace.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as Honorary Patron of the Association of Marshall Scholars, will be the host at a reception at St James's Palace at 6.30 to mark the 40th anniversary of the British Marshall Scholarship.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend the Sheffield section 75th anniversary lecture at the Holiday Inn, Royal Victoria, Sheffield, at 11.30. As Patron of the Spinal Injuries Association, will open the new Spinal Injuries Unit and the Northern General Hospital, at 2.05; and as Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, will attend the Faraday lecture at the Albert Hall at 5.35.

The Duchess of Gloucester will present the 81 Young Deaf Awarders' awards at the Café Royal at 12.30.

Princess Alexandra will visit the St James Independent School for Girls, 19 Pembroke Villas, W11, at 3.30.

Luncheons

HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Admiralty House in honour of Dr Nader Al-Nabulsi, Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

English-Speaking Union
Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC, was the guest of honour and speaker at a literary luncheon held yesterday at Dartmouth House, Mrs Valery Mitchell, Director of the English Speaking Union, welcomed the guests and Professor Alan Watson, a governor and chairman of the international and current affairs committee, presided. Mr Anthony Westgate, deputy chairman, also spoke.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Miss Ann Lewis, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Mrs Yvonne Moores, Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health, also spoke.

Appointments

Mr Justice Chadwick to be Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Cardiff and Birmingham.

Mr Roger Keith House to be a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate from February 7.

Mr Stuart John Williams to be a full-time Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the Manchester region, from February 21.

Mrs Lynne Ravenscroft, JP, to be a member of the Magistrates' Committee of the Judicial Studies Board in succession to Mrs P.M. Simpson.

University news

Glasgow
The university has appointed Professor Alexander Broadie to the Chair of Logic & Rhetoric. Professor Broadie was previously Titular Professor in Philosophy at the university.

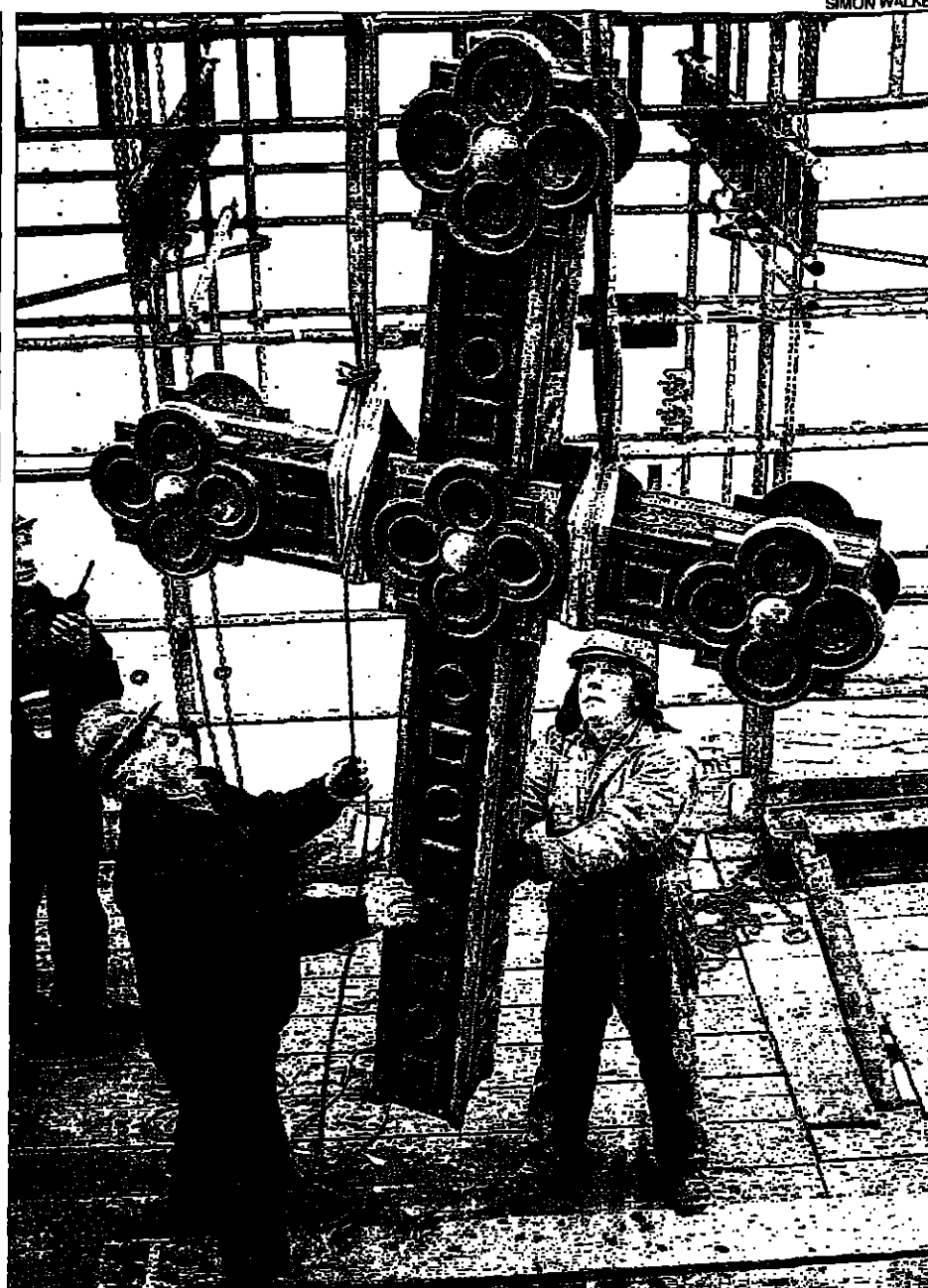
Bradford
Dr Fiona Williams, formerly of the Open University, to be Professor of Applied Social Studies from February 1.

Dr Jalna Hanmer, Department of Applied Social Studies, to a Personal Chair as Professor of Women's Studies.

Dr John Wood, Department of Biomedical Sciences, to a Personal Chair as Professor of Medical Biochemistry.

Dr John Hunter, Department of Archaeological Sciences, to be Reader in the Department of Archaeological Sciences.

Dr John Weiss, Development and Project Planning Centre, to be Reader in the Development and Project Planning Centre.



Construction workers manoeuvring the cross at the top of the Albert Memorial before a crane lowered it 200ft to the ground yesterday. The bronze cross and orb are being repaired as part of a £13 million project by English Heritage to restore the memorial. The restoration of the cross and orb, expected to cost about £50,000, involves regilding and refitting glass jewels which were lost when the cross and orb were replaced after being shot down by anti-aircraft fire during the Second World War.

Londoners' apathy is losing them millions of millennium money

By Robin Barnwell

APATHY amongst Londoners will lose the capital millions of pounds of funding for millennium projects in the run up to the year 2000.

Helen Wilkinson, chief executive of the Millennium Commission, the body responsible for co-ordinating project applications to the Millennium Fund, said that the capital will lose out to other parts of the United Kingdom if it continues to fail to co-ordinate its bid for funds effectively.

Speaking yesterday at a conference examining the capital's plans for the millennium, she said that the commission was disappointed not to have received more applications for funding from London-based projects.

"I think we have received such a poor response from the capital because people are distracted by high-status applications and do not believe that there is anything in it for them."

Her speech coincided with the publication of a report for the London Arts Board, the Sports Council and London First, a private sector group formed to promote and improve London, which said that the capital's millennium project proposals involved too many large-scale capital arts and heritage projects based mainly in central London.

The report, entitled the *London Millennium Study*, recommended that London's local authorities, with leaders from community-based projects and sports groups, should be encouraged to take part in the millennium debate to ensure that large-scale building projects did not hijack the capital's bids.

The study is the first comprehensive survey of plans released by a city to mark the year 2000. However, London is left to be at a disadvantage with other parts of Britain because it no longer has a single unitary government body to oversee the co-ordination of its millennium plans.

London First aims to redress the balance through a high-profile campaign, leading up to the year 2000. "It is our aim to remove any apathy very quickly indeed," Stephen O'Brien, chief executive, said. "It is our objective to make sure that London is not only at the heart of the country's celebrations but is at the forefront of world events for the millennium."

A questionnaire sent out to organisations disclosed that 65 capital projects were being actively planned while another 68 were under consideration. Over 70 per cent cost more than £5 million.

Under the Millennium Commission's published guidelines, only half the £1.6 billion raised through the National Lottery by 1999 will be available to large-scale capital projects. The remaining money will go to projects of local significance, a millennium festival and bursary scheme.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.J. Ashworth and Miss L.V. Severin
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Philip J. Ashworth, and Ida, daughter of Mr Tim Severin, Professor Dorothy Sherman Severin.

Mr R.C. Boys-Stones and Miss C.R. Douglas
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Claude Boys-Stones, of Cambridge, Northumberland, and Camilla, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Douglas, of Corso, Kirkcubrightshire.

Mr N.E. Brown and Miss C.E. Ashley
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Alan Brown, of Langstone, Gwent, and Caroline, daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Ashley, of Harlington, Lincolnshire.

Mr S.P. Catchpole and Miss R. Seale
The engagement is announced between Stuart Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert J. Catchpole, of Colchester, Essex, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr Peter B. Seale and the late Mary Seale, of Southport, Merseyside.

Mr S.A.R. Fairfax-Lucy and Miss D. Duanjanangram
The engagement is announced between Angus, son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Fairfax-Lucy, of Chichester, and Duanjanangram, daughter of Mrs Kumpas Duanjanangram, of Buriram, Thailand.

Mr J.S.L. Macaskie and Mrs J.F. Cromartie
The engagement is announced between James Macaskie, widower of Josephine, and Jennifer Cromartie, widow of Ian.

Mr J.A. Murray and Miss D. Browne
The engagement is announced between James Murray, of Keston, Kent, and Dawn Browne, of Tonbridge, Kent.

Mr A.J.F. Nason and Miss L.A. Martin
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Colonel and Mrs I.G. Nason, of Broadchalke, Wiltshire, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.R. Martin, of Barnes, London.

Mr J.R.D. Halfhead and Miss A.J. King
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robin Halfhead, of Oaksey Court, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan King, of Corbie Farm, Bratton, Wiltshire.

Dr M.R.C. Jones and Dr S. Rodriguez-Ferrera
The engagement is announced between Michael, second son of Mr and Mrs Colin Jones, of Colchester, Essex, and Silvia, daughter of Dr and Mrs Juan Claudio Rodriguez-Ferrera, of Barcelona, Spain.

Mr C.B. Mathias and Miss A.V. Gendel
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Professor Anthony and Mrs Pauline Mathias, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Anna, daughter of Mr Milton Gendel, of Rome, Italy, and the late Judy Gendel.

Mr S.A.T. Metcalfe and Miss S.L. Whiffen
The engagement is announced between Simon, third son of Major and Mrs D.B. Metcalfe, of Burleigh, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.A. Whiffen, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Mr B. Noakes and Miss N. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Ben, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Noakes, of St John's Wood, London, and Nicola, only daughter of Mrs Judith Taylor and of the late Mr Tony Taylor, of Bewdley, Worcestershire.

Mr A.B. Smeach and Miss H.J. Braddock
The engagement is announced between Alistair Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Smeach, of Brighton, Sussex, and Helena Jane, youngest daughter of Mr Ian Braddock, of Whitby, North Yorkshire, and Mrs Beryl Braddock, of Kirkcubrightshire, North Yorkshire.

Marriage
Sir Trevor Holdsworth and Miss J. Watson
The marriage took place in Chelsea, on Saturday, January 28, of Trevor Holdsworth and Jenny Watson.

Birthdays today

Mrs Jennifer Adams, park manager, Central Royal Parks, 47; Miss Kate Ashbrook, general secretary, Open Spaces Society, 40; Dr C.A. Barnett, Headmaster, Whitgift School, Croydon, 42; Sir Kenneth Bond, former vice-chairman, GEC, 75; Major H. Stanley Cayer, 85; Mrs Ruth Clarke, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, 40; Sir Peter Cill, former Bishop of Jersey, 73; Mrs Josephine Dimbleby, cookery writer, 52; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 67; Mrs Virginia Elliot, 67; Mr Don Every, singer, 58; Sir Douglas Hall, former Governor, Smallland Protectorate, 85; Sir Gordon Hobday, former Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, 79; Mr Adam Ingram, 40; Professor Douglas Johnson, historian, 70; Sir Maurice Laing, life president, John Laing, 77; Sir Stanley Matthews, footballer, 80; Lord Mountbatten, 82; Sir John Nott, former MP, 63; Professor Sir Mark Richmond, former chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council, 64; Mr Peter Sallis, actor, 74; Mr Andrew Smith, MP, 44; Dame Muriel Spark, writer, 77; Sir Peter Tappin, MP, 65; Miss Renata Tobi, soprano, 73; Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, 64.

Dinners

Fruiters' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the annual livery dinner of the Fruiters' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Sir Rowland Whitehead, Master, assisted by Mr Michael Tanguy, Upper Warman, and Mr Derek Tuley, Renter Warden, presided. The Lord Mayor, Sir Ian Percival, QC, and the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson also spoke.

During the evening the Master presented the Lewis award for distinguished services in the marketing of fresh fruit to Mr P.G. McCracken on behalf of Marks & Spencer.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Miss Ann Lewis, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Mrs Yvonne Moores, Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health, also spoke.

Mill Hill School

The Right Hon Dame Angela Rumbold, DBE, MP, has been appointed Chairman to the Court of Governors of Mill Hill School in succession to Lord Sybil of Hadley from February 1, 1995.

Sebastian Shaw

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sebastian Shaw will be held at St Paul's, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, on February 14 at 2pm.

Church news

The Rev Martin Wright, Diocesan Archdeacon, diocese of Coventry, to be also an Honorary Canon of Coventry Cathedral.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Edward Coke, jurist and politician, Mileham, Norfolk, 1532; John Philip Kemble, actor-manager, Fressingfield, Lancashire, 1757; Emile Lime, lexicographer, Paris, 1801; Dame Clara Butt, contralto, Southwick, Sussex, 1873; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, poet and dramatist, Vienna, 1874; Louis St Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada (1948-57), Compton, Quebec, 1882; John Ford, film director, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, 1893; Stephen Potter, humorist, 1900; Clark Gable, actor, Cadiz, Ohio, 1901; S.J. Perelman, humorist, Brooklyn, 1904.

DEATHS: René Descares, philosopher, Stockholm, 1605; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, novelist, London, 1851; Matthew Maury, hydrographer, Lexington, Virginia, 1873; George Cruikshank, caricaturist, London, 1878; Piet Mondrian, painter, New York, 1944; Buster Keaton, silent film comedian, Woodland Hills, California, 1966.

The US Supreme Court met for the first time, 1790.

The first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary was published, 1888.

The first British Labour Exchanges opened, 1910.

The USSR was formally recognised by Britain, 1924.

The Pompidou Centre in Paris, designed by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano, was opened, 1977.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Here is the Lord God: he is coming in night with power and might. His reward is to him, his recompense before him. Isaiah 40: 10 (2023)

BIRTHS

BAKER - On 15th January, to Gillian (nee Murphy), and Roger, a son, Thomas James, 15th January 1995.

BETT - On 18th January, to Philippa (nee Stansfield) and Stephen, a daughter, Charlotte Arabella Marie, 18th January 1995.

BOSWALL - On January 26th, to Marian (nee Edick) and Robert, a daughter, Phoebe Delia Alice.

BRANT - On January 26th, to Christopher and Sarah (nee Phillips), a daughter, Katherine Charlotte.

DANIEL - On 28th January, to St Paul's, Chesham, to Jane and Robert, a son, John Robert Austin.

DESLANDES - On 26th January in Manchester to Kate (nee Seckin) and Gerald, a son, Jack, a brother for Laura.

FRASER - On 24th January, to St Thomas' Hospital, to Belinda (nee Smith) and Brian, a son, Stuart James Hector, a brother for Camille.

JENNINGS - On January 27th, to The Portland Hospital, to Catherine and Roger, a daughter, Lucinda Prudence McDowell.

MACKENZIE - On January 12th, to Lisa (nee Anderson) and Robert, a son, Charles George, a brother for Oliver.

MARIN - On January 29th, to Clare and Edward, a son, Alexander James.

PATESSON - On 26th January, to Melodie (nee Farnham) and David, a son, Angus James.

ROCHFORD - On Sunday December 11th 1994, to Azar (1374) at 3.45 am in Cambridge, to Thomas and Fahn, a son, Corvus Khoshnazar, Dr Graham.

ROSS-SCHUBER - On 26th January 1995, to Judith (nee Ross) and Gordon, a son, Harrison Francis Crawford.

SCOTT - On 26th January, to Robert (nee Tait) and Patricia, a son, William Alexander Clavering.

DEATHS

SHAPIRO - On 30th January, to Joseph, 92, of a long illness, a daughter, Flora Grace Saxton, a sister for Hugo and Tessa.

TOSHI - On January 26th, to Ros and John, a son, 25th December 1994 at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London.

VOYSE - On 16th January 1995, to Bishop Auckland General Hospital, to Sarah and David, a daughter, Anna Teresa.

DEATHS

ALDHOUSE - On 26th January, to Eric Robert Aldhouse and much loved and loving mother, 82, of a long illness, a daughter, Helen, a sister for John and Robert.

DESLANDES - On 26th January in Manchester to Kate (nee Seckin) and Gerald, a son, Jack, a brother for Laura.

FRASER - On 24th January, to St Thomas' Hospital, to Belinda (nee Smith) and Brian, a son, Stuart James Hector, a brother for Camille.

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SCOTT - On 26th January, to Robert (nee Tait) and Patricia, a son, William Alexander Clavering.

DEATHS

CHURCH - On 30th January, to John, 82, of a long illness, a daughter, Lydia, a sister for John and Robert.

TOSHI - On January 26th, to Ros and John, a son, 25th December 1994 at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London.

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DEATHS

HAIRER - On January 29th, to John, 82, of a long illness, a daughter, Lydia, a sister for John and Robert.

TOSHI - On January 26th, to Ros and John, a son, 25th December 1994 at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London.

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JENNINGS - On January 27th, to The Portland Hospital, to Catherine and Roger, a daughter, Lucinda Prudence McDowell.

MACKENZIE - On January 12th, to Lisa (nee Anderson) and Robert, a son, Charles George, a brother for Oliver.

MARIN - On January 29th, to Clare and Edward, a son, Alexander James.

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ROCHFORD - On Sunday December 11th 1994, to Azar (1374) at 3.45 am in Cambridge, to Thomas and Fahn, a son, Corvus Khoshnazar, Dr Graham.

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ALEXANDER STAHLBERG

A black and white portrait of a man in a military uniform, likely a pilot. He is wearing a dark uniform jacket with a high collar and a pilot's wing badge on his left chest. The image is high-contrast and grainy.

As Field Marshal von Manstein's adjutant, 1944

After he left school his uncle got him the job of private secretary to the Reich Chancellor, Franz von Papen, who was a friend of his. Papen was shortly afterwards to give way to Hitler, whose deputy he became. Stahlberg first came face to face with Hitler at Papen's official residence, and after helping him out of his trenchcoat was appalled to

When he returned to Germany in 1935 Stahlberg joined his father's edible oils business in Stettin. Shortly after he had begun work the local Nazi *Gruppenleiter*

When war came he was involved in some of the toughest-fought campaigns. After serving in Poland in 1939 he was involved in the following spring in the invasion of France. In May 1940 at Amiens his quick thinking saved the city's great cathedral from destruction when he

A few days before the plot against Hitler's life of July 20, 1944, Stahlhoff told Manstein what was planned. Manstein was non-committal. Though earlier in the war he had been open to the idea of supplanting Hitler, he had since had reaffirmed his loyalty to him, although he would not actively betray the plotters. Indeed, the German title of Stahlhoff's book, *Die verdammte Pflicht* (The damned duty), is an expression as the English does not, the difficulty many German officers—even those who were disgusted by Hitler—felt about breaking their soldier's oath to the Führer as commander-in-chief of the armed forces and guardian of the German state.

in 1922. Alexander Stahberg was born in 1922 in Stahleberg, Prussia (When Prussia was still Prussia), a memoir of his upbringing in rural Pomerania and Berlin in the years before the Nazis came to power. At the time of his death he was working on a book about the Reichstag fire which gave Hitler the excuse to abolish the rule of law in Germany. He believed he had firm evidence that Goering had shot the last boast of the old Gauleiter back at the perpetrators and the new perpetrators and named the Dutch communist van der Lubbe who confessed to the crime and was executed for it.

Alexander Stahberg is survived by his second wife Irmgard (née von Reitzenstein) and by three daughters and two sons of his first marriage.

JAMES GRANT



President Kennedy named him deputy director of the International Co-operation Administration and then deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs. In 1969 he founded the Overseas Development Council and served as president of the organisation until he became the third head of Unicef in 1980.

SIR HENRY LINTOTT



gives me no pleasure to hear you speak that language," said the man stiffly.

He became private secretary to the Board's President, Oliver Lyttelton (later Viscount Chandos), and got on so well with him that when

Henry Linton, who was created KCMG in 1967, leaves his wife, a son and a daughter.

MICHAEL COLEMAN



Undeterred by the asthma from which he suffered, he was a keen runner and in his

Coleman was the true amateur enthusiast and his imagination caught by the modern pentathlon, the event devised by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who initiated the revival of the Olympic Games. Coleman attended more world championships than any other British journalist and was therefore often first with the news about the cluster of successes this country has enjoyed in this sport in recent years.

London but went to Ireland with his mother and brother after the Second World War. He began his journalistic

He joined *The Times* as a sub-editor in 1966, working first on home news and then on foreign news, rising to

He moved to the sports desk in 1986 and worked on *The Times* for a further six years. After leaving the staff of the newspaper in 1992, he increased his output of reporting, covering events like the world skating championships and Olympic Games for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and also numerous foreign publications.

The heart attack from which he died occurred while he was out running in Brockwell Park in south London. His wife Benita survives him.

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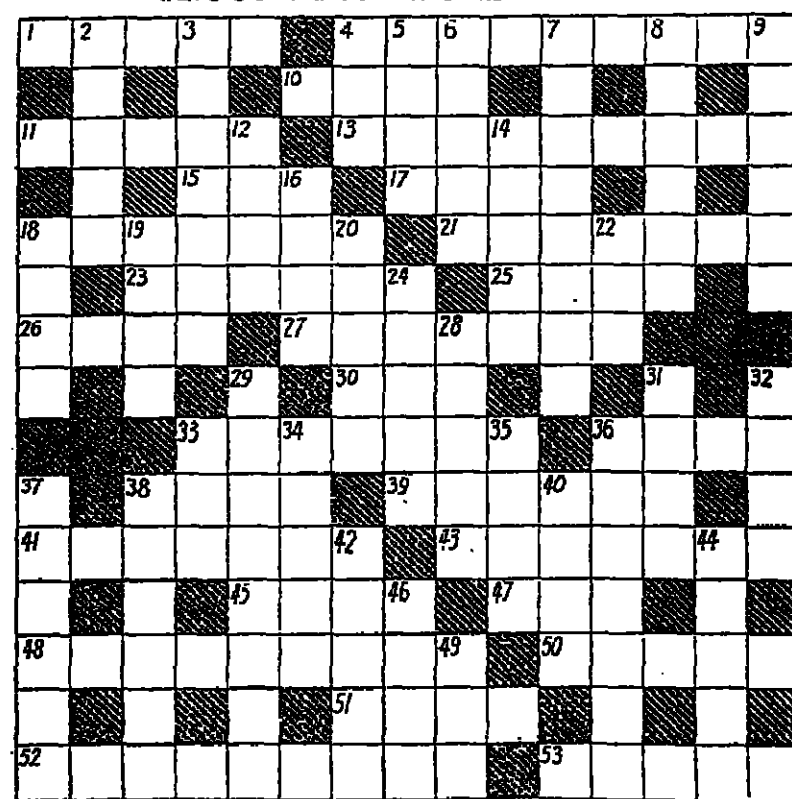
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ON THIS DAY

February 1 1930

The compiler of the first crossword was Adrian Bell (1901-80). He was asked to start the feature and was paid three guineas a puzzle. He continued for nearly 50 years producing 4,520 puzzles. This work was of course anonymous, but Bell was known to a small but discerning public who enjoyed his novels of rural life in prewar Suffolk.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO. 1



47 Makes a plaything with his past.
48 Wants confidence.
50 A hawk and a dove means getting the bird.
51 This girl seems to be eating backwards.
52 The men in the moon.
53 A pinch of sand will make it dry.

DOWN

2 Heraldic gold between mother and me.
3 One of countenance.
4 Uprose this value and get a sharp reproof.
5 Wasn't much delayed.
6 In some hands the things become trumpets.
7 A religious service.
8 This horseman has dropped an h.
9 Sounds like a curious soup.

12 This ought to be square.
14 Momentary stoppage.
16 Written briefly.
18 Culverley's picturesque scholars carved their names on every one.
19 Site of 45 across.
20 Precedes advantage.
22 Parents in a negative way.
24 Used to be somewhere in France.
26 Happen afterwards.
28 Climbing instinct in man.
31 A terrestrial glider.
32 The final crack.

33 The little devil's on our money.
34 Simplest creature.
35 Time measurements.
36 Jollier than 4 across.
37 Ladies in promising mood.
38 Presents are commonly this.
40 Gets the boot.
42 Hail in Scotland may mean tears.
44 Works, but usually plays.
46 She's dead.
49 Only a contortionist could do this on a chain.

The solution of puzzle No. 1 will appear in 71 Times tomorrow.

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THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR LIFESTYLE

Far Eastern developers find London both lucky and profitable — but conservationists are worried. Rachel Kelly reports

Just as long as it's not No 4

The refrain became familiar about a year ago. Foreigners are buying in London, and they hail from the Far East, the capital's agents said.

Now, the agents' message has subtly changed. Far Eastern investors are in town, but this time they are not just buying but developing, by it white elephants such as County Hall and Battersea Power Station or brand new residential schemes.

In the process, they have provoked conservationists who fear for the future of some of London's most famous landmarks which have recently changed hands. The historic fabric of buildings, including County Hall and Battersea Power Station, are being allowed to crumble while development plans remain on hold, conservationists say.

Brian Barnes, from the Battersea Power Station Community Group, says: "Battersea's owners, the Hwang brothers from Hong Kong, are standing by while it disintegrates. After 18 months of ownership, the brothers and their company, Parkview International, have done little or nothing to protect the exposed fabric of the power station from the elements."

Mr Barnes was equally concerned about the fate of County Hall, owned by the Japanese firm, Shiryama. Before Christmas, it was announced that Shiryama was abandoning plans to turn part of the building into a hotel.

"It can't be acceptable to Londoners that these two buildings and their sites on the south bank of the Thames are being manipulated by private companies who have few concerns for London's heritage," Mr Barnes says. "It is time this rationalised vandalism was brought to an end."

A spokesman for the Hwang brothers says: "The Hwang brothers are keen to develop the site as quickly as possible. They are going through legal processes at the moment to confirm their ownership of the site. As soon as that is done, they will apply for planning permission. There have been delays in these processes, none of them of the Hwangs' making."

Far Eastern investors have also

recently been involved in some of the biggest new residential schemes in the capital because they believe London property is undervalued.

Stephen Miles-Brown, a partner of Knight Frank & Rutley, says: "In the past year, more than 60 per cent of major residential development deals have involved interest from the Far East, either openly or as a silent partner with a UK developer. They are buying land and building on it for their own home market."

Far Eastern schemes include Charles II Place, a half-completed development in the King's Road, Chelsea, Hampton Gurney Street in Westminster, a block of 68 flats in Fulham called Sailmakers Court, and a scheme in Stanhope Gardens, London SW7.

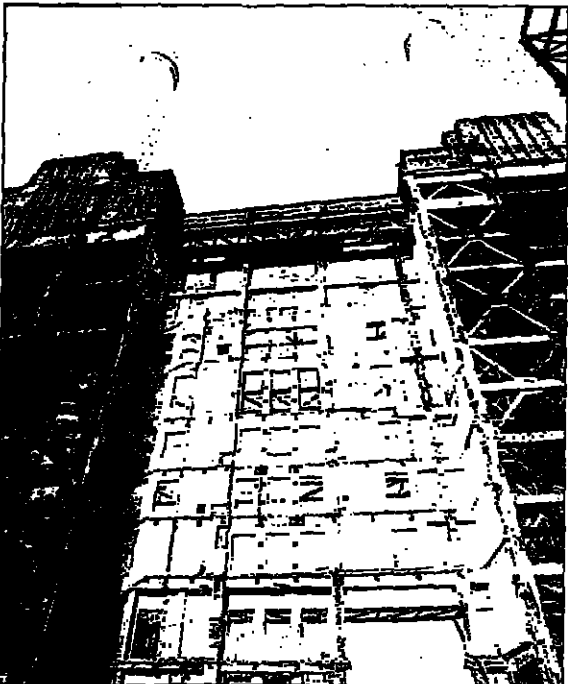
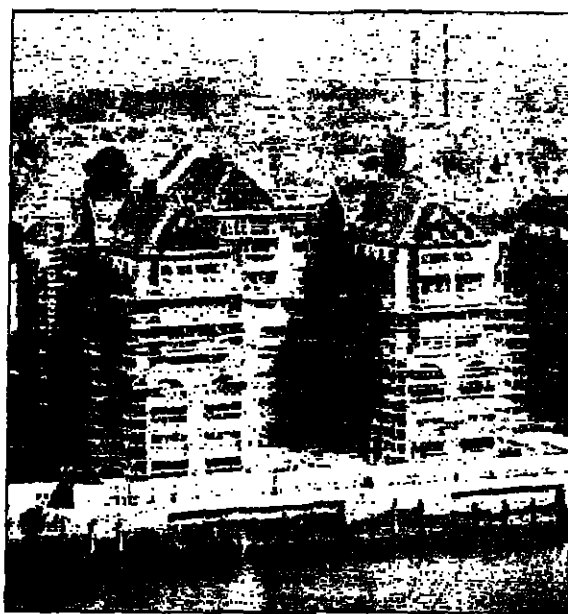
The Sincere Group of Hong Kong are partnering the British firm Regalian in the redevelopment of Alenby House on the Thames opposite Westminster, a modern block which is home to Lord Archer, and to be renamed Peninsula Heights. Hong Kong and Singaporean developers were behind a scheme at 49 Hill Street, Mayfair, for a development of luxury flats.

Investors from Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong believe the UK property is under-valued, Mr Miles-Brown says. "There are also historic ties and a common language."

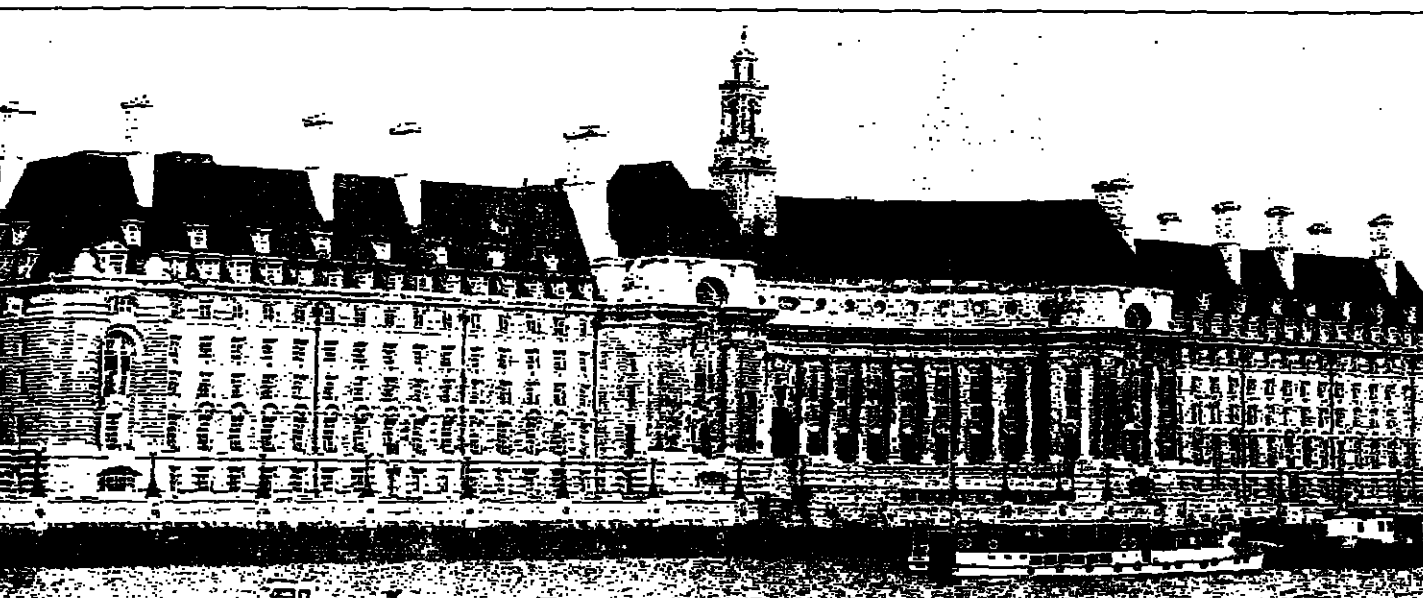
The trend is expected to rise as the 1997 handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese approaches. Robin Paterson, managing director of Cluttons London Residential, says: "We expect even greater investment in London as companies and individuals take the view 'just in case'."

Would-be buyers of Far Eastern financed schemes will often find themselves frustrated. Nick Heritage, of John D Wood, says: "Property that is financed from the Far East is usually marketed in the Far East and is bought, usually unseen, by someone who wants to invest in property in London. The property is then let."

Projects sold direct to Far Eastern buyers tend to feature air-conditioning, tinted glass windows and smaller hallways. Door numbers are adjusted to rid develop-



Far Eastern schemes include, top left, Sailmakers Court in Fulham, 68 flats; bottom left, Battersea Power Station owned by Hong Kong's Hwang brothers; right, Peninsula Heights opposite Westminster, 36 flats; and below, County Hall



ments of the number four, an unlucky number. At Observatory Gardens, for example, where De Groot Colis sold three blocks to a Far Eastern investor, the numbering became three, five, five (a), and six.

But some schemes are targeted at English buyers. The advantage for those seeking to buy is that Far Eastern financed developments are unlikely to be abandoned in the way that some English develop-

ments are as the receivers have stepped in, says Simon Agace, managing director of the London agents Winkworth. If you buy off-plan, your dream is likely to be realised, he says.

Tim Whitney, a director of Savills, says that buyers can expect a similar finish from Far Eastern developers as from British. "The professionals employed by the developer are all geared to working to this market." Thus schemes tend to

have Bosch appliances, tiled bathrooms with power showers, lifts and parking places.

But Andrew Langton, from Ayleford, is also optimistic. "Generally speaking, the developer from the Far East has a much higher standard than UK developers. Such schemes are usually bigger and better, with a greater emphasis on quality, partly because Far Eastern developers take such a long-term view. They spend more

per square foot than their British counterparts."

The other advantage to home-grown buyers is a fresh supply of new schemes on the market which might otherwise not have been developed in a capital which suffers a dearth of new development. The only exceptions are sites close to graveyards, former hospitals, or with roads leading straight up to them. All three signify bad luck, if not death, to those from the Pacific.

ON THE MOVE

Collaring a vicarage

THE demand for old vicarages continues unabated. They have character, good-size rooms and are usually well positioned in their town or village, Paul Jackson, the New Forest agent explains.

This demand is illustrated by the recent sale of two vicarages in the New Forest. The Old Vicarage at Lymington, Hampshire, is a Georgian building with Regency additions, standing close to the town centre and a short stroll from the ancient parish church. The eight-bedroom, four-reception-room house fetched close to the guide price of £320,000.

In Sway, Dial House, the former Sway Vicarage, made headlines some years ago when it was the first property in the New Forest to sell for more than £100,000 at auction. On the outskirts of the village, and standing in two acres, the four-bedroom, three-reception-room house, with its stabling and swimming pool has been sold for £350,000 to a buyer from London.

THE Georgian Group, the national amenity society for the preservation of Georgian architecture, is moving, and, appropriately, is to set up its headquarters in a house by Robert Adam.

The building, in Fitzroy Square, London W1, is part of one of Adam's grandest, but least-known, works in London. Until recently the building was a branch of the NatWest Bank, and it will need some refurbishment before the group moves in at the end of June.

The Georgian Group currently operates from two overcrowded rooms at the top of a house in Spitalfields, and Neil Burton, its secretary, says: "Now we can provide decent working conditions for the staff, and house our archives. We will have several good Adam rooms, and when funds allow we will also be able to build up a property reference collection to help members of the public with their questions about Georgian buildings."

NO 3, The Belvedere, the prominent tower at Chelsea Harbour, may not sound a bargain at £750,000, but the Chelsea agent De Groot Colis explains that the asking price is between £100,000 and £550,000 less than other apartments of equal size available in this London landmark.

Covering the entire third floor, the apartment has a more direct outlook across the marina than apartments on higher floors, and views over the River Thames. It has a large double reception room, a south-facing balcony and four bedrooms.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

Don't leave it too late to move

Despite an ageing population, homes for the elderly can be hard to find

What happens to homeowners when they grow old? The issue will affect us all. In 1991, 11.9 million people in Britain were over 60. That will rise to 13.4 million by 2011.

Life expectancy is also lengthening, and the number of over-75s will rise from 3.6 million in 1991 to 6.1 million by 2031. Yet, contrary to popular belief, few old people (just 5 per cent) live in sheltered homes and fewer still (3 per cent) in residential homes.

Most retired people still live in their family home, ideal while they are "young retirees", less appealing as frailty approaches, or a spouse dies, and the upkeep of a house and garden becomes difficult.

At this stage, many older people want to move to something smaller and more secure than their family home, perhaps with a resident warden. Will they have that choice? Just 80,000 sheltered dwellings have been built for sale since the first schemes began in the late 1970s.

Today's over-75s have traditionally rented their homes, and are being catered for with about 700,000 rented sheltered dwellings — provided by local authorities and housing associations — although provision of affordable rented places is being affected by a drop in Housing Corporation grants.

Preference for tenancies is given to people already renting public sector homes, which can then be re-leased to families. But there will soon be an explosion in the number of owner-occupiers reaching retirement age. In 1991, homeowners amounted to 56 per cent of people aged 70 to 79, 62 per cent of 65 to 69-year-olds and 69 per cent of 60 to 64-year-olds.

New sheltered private hous-

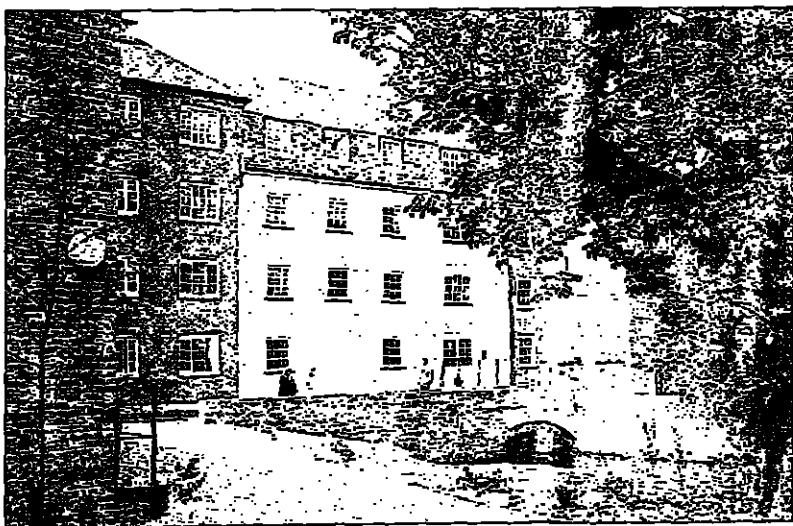
ing has been hit by the poor market, with older householders opting to stay put rather than sell at a low price. Now the fragile market is stirring again, and a backlog of people is waiting to move, says John McCarthy, whose company McCarthy & Stone identified the need for sheltered housing developments 13 years ago.

Such apartments have electric sockets at waist height, taps with grips, and an alarm bell in each room that connects with a warden.

This year we've seen a significant improvement in business flow and a hardening of prices," Mr McCarthy says. "We're trying to replenish stocks and are building 1,200 to 1,500 units throughout Britain this year. Developments of one and two-bedroom flats at Milford on Sea, Hampshire, and Broughty Ferry, Scotland, have just come onto the market at about £60,000 and they're selling very well."

The Pegasus Retirement Group also reports high interest. The Parks, a 42-apartment development at Keynsham, Avon, already has nine flats reserved although the show apartment has yet to open.

But sheltered housing is not always the answer, since service charges are usually about £18 a week for a one-bedroom flat, and £20 to £30 for a two-bedroom flat, including building maintenance such as window cleaning, heat and



Perfect fit: Deans Mill Court in Canterbury, built by McCarthy & Stone

light in the common areas, and a resident warden. Old people tend to live on fixed incomes, 80 per cent of over-65s receive less than £12,000 a year, and if they are not eligible for benefits, any rise in charges can cause hardship.

It also pays to be wary. In the boom-late 1980s, some builders simply put sheltered housing wherever they could buy a site without considering its distance from local transport and the facilities people needed such as a post office, shops, a health centre and a library.

"We've got to start looking ahead and planning for the future," Rashida Bharmal, Age Concern's housing policy officer, says. "There's no co-

ordinated policy, nothing coming from central government, and it's very worrying."

Specialist builders point out that there are fewer demands on social services from people living in sheltered homes, since they are less likely to suffer from hypothermia or have accidents, and there is someone on hand to summon help.

The cheapest option, and the one most favoured by 85 per cent of old people, is to stay in their own homes. Community alarms triggered by a pendant or telephone button which connects with a control centre to fetch help — after a fall, for example — are helping an increasing number of people to do this. There are now 400 control centres throughout

'People don't want to think about ageing'

Britain, mainly run by local authorities.

Another response is to design new houses for flexibility, with wider doors to allow wheelchair access and downstairs bathrooms. The idea is that a couple should be able to grow old in a home that is built for life. The idea of extending this to all new housing is particularly favoured by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which recently saw such a scheme launched at Runcorn, Cheshire, by the National Federation of Housing Associations.

Brenda Molnar, co-author with Christine Davies of the National Housing Forum's report, *All Our Tomorrows, Housing and Older People*, feels there is an overall failure to grasp the nettle. "Sheltered housing should continue, but the Department of Health is not co-operating with the Environment Department to decide what housing should be built. There's a total failure to be concerned about the future of housing for elderly people, given that the elderly population is increasing," she says.

"There's little discussion because people don't want to think about becoming old and frail and tend to wait until it happens. When it does, they discover that the options available are very limited. Women tend to live longer than men, and it is when a woman is widowed that suitability of housing is considered, especially if the couple have retired

to the country and she cannot drive or manage the house and garden."

Ms Bharmal says it is important to look into sheltered accommodation long before one needs it. "People are reluctant to leave a home and its memories, but if they move into more manageable accommodation when they're more active, they can develop contact with people, endow it with memories and age in what feels like their home rather than having to move when they're 80 and their partner has just died. But, judging from the number of calls I get, it's not always easy to find the right kind of accommodation to buy."

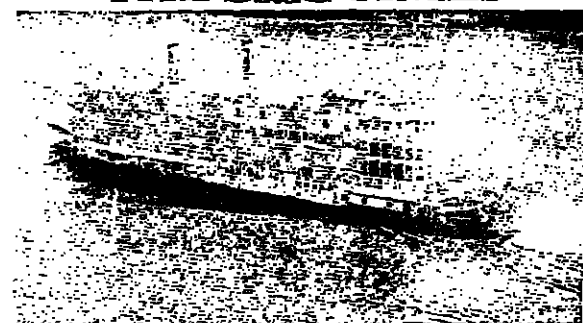
The Elderly Accommodation Council is compiling data which will be available in six months on private schemes. The council already offers information on other types of accommodation, and notes a need for sheltered private housing that offers more than just emergency care while enabling frail, elderly people to retain independence and dignity.

Ray Walker, a planning and housing expert and secretary of the Association of Retirement Housing Managers, agrees that much more needs to be done. "The critical social change which we have yet to come to terms with is that many more Britons are entering old age as owner-occupiers. There is a striking absence of local and national strategies," he says. "Everyone is running away from confronting the challenges we all face as the number of over-65s grows in coming years."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● Elderly Accommodation Council (0181-742 182).

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International television broadcasting faces one big problem: communication. Unless networks with world ambitions recognise this, they will fail

The language of success

When viewers start yawning at O.J. Simpson, you get the measure of the problem. There are few news stories whose popular interest transcends national boundaries. Even a Hollywood sex 'n' sports murder mystery begins to take on the tawdry status of a faraway election or foreign war: Over-Covered, Over There.

Pity, then, those who have set their sights on creating a business out of international television news. The bleak global prospects may hold the answer to another mystery. Why, last Friday, out of the blue, did David Gordon resign as chief executive of Independent Television News after only two years in the job?

Gordon, 53, is no career grasshopper. Before moving to ITN in 1993, he had been for a quarter century at *The Economist*: 12 years as chief executive of its worldwide publishing enterprise after 13 years as business editor and humble hack. It hardly seems in

keeping for such a stable character to move into a new organisation and new medium, then to back out — especially as he was so obviously enjoying the fight against the BBC's claims to be selling a global world news service without cross-subsidisation from the licence fee.

Not that Gordon and ITN's explanation for his departure is implausible. ITN is now a reshaped, lean, stable, profitable company. Its glass palace in Gray's Inn Road has just secured a tenant for its last empty floor. A new alliance with Ted Turner's Cable News Network will soon be announced.

The rumours around the resignation are not implausible, either: that Gordon had a falling-out with Michael Green, the ITN chairman. If so, he would not be the

first. Green is gifted but prickly. When it comes to ITN, Green is particularly powerful — not only its chairman but through his Carlton and Central Television interests, owner of about a third of it.

But for ITN, the handwriting was on the wall. The wonder is why anyone who has been to Harvard Business School should have taken so long to read it because it said: "ITN is boxed in at home and abroad." Boxed in at home because ITN's main business is supplying news to ITV and Channel 4, and likely to remain so. And abroad because CNN has an overwhelming lead as an international news network and, prestige apart, has not a lot to show for it. In 1993 CNN International contributed only \$93 million to the \$600 million earned by all of the



BRENDA MADDOX

Turner news operations. It was never on the cards, in other words, for Gordon to be able to do with ITN what he did with *The Economist*: turn a classy domestic moneyspinner into a classy international one. And only part-right for Green to assert in the ITN annual report that the proliferation of television channels

means "a growing appetite for high-quality news programmes".

So there is. But not for programmes in English. Around the world, TV news suppliers are waking up to the obvious: local audiences like local languages. For the past year, Star TV, the Hong Kong-based network, has been putting its entertainment channels into Malay, Cantonese and other indigenous languages. MTV, the pop music channel, is doing the same in India. Reuters Television puts out a fantastically successful news programme, *Here and Now*, from Moscow, attracting more than 70 million viewers. It does it in Russian, not English.

For similar reasons, plans to develop an international counterpart to Sky News seem to be on hold. It is not widely realised that

any all-news network must squeeze itself onto a cable system. Such a channel is inherently specialised — something for a cable operator to offer as one attraction in a multichannel package: a prestige product, to be carried on as a dip-in, dip-out service. Nobody expects it to draw a large, sustained audience.

In the United States, CNN attracts only 1.9 per cent of viewing households over a 24-hour day. In Britain, the audience for Sky News (part owned by News International, parent company of *The Times*) is small — averaging about 24,000 a day. Its most popular programme, *Live at Five*, draws between 70,000 and 80,000, in contrast to the million or so drawn by Sky One, the entertainment channel, for a hit such as *The*

Simpsons. What's more, cable systems are full in Britain, in Germany, in America.

Why should a cable operator drop something more popular in order to put a news channel on, especially if he already has one, in the national language? There will be a market for world news channels in English — eventually. But only when there is cable capacity to spare and more satellites. CNN and Reuters, among others, suffered a setback last week when a Chinese communications satellite, which would have improved Far East penetration, exploded on launch.

For the moment, ITN seems to have recognised that the day of the profitable, English-language, worldwide competitor to CNN is pretty distant. Will the BBC World Television Service come to realise that "brand name" is not enough if all you speak is English? But because its global venture is backed by Pearson, perhaps the BBC can afford to wait.

Twenty names have been put forward for the editorship of *The Observer*. Alexandra Frean looks at the most likely candidates

CANDIDATE
Will Hutton

Ambitious economics editor of the *Guardian*. Has been interviewed



CANDIDATE
Polly Toynbee

Social affairs editor of the BBC. Failed in 1993



SELECTOR
Hugo Young

Chairman of the Independent Trust which runs the two titles



SELECTOR
Peter Preston

Many think he would be the ideal candidate to be editor

A puff of white smoke will emerge from The *Guardian* Media Group's Farrington Road headquarters in central London within the next few days, indicating that the long hard search for a new editor of *The Observer* is finally over.

With no obvious front-runner and no clear consensus among the seven-strong committee that has been convened to find a candidate to fill the post, speculation in Fleet Street about the identity of the 12th editor of Britain's oldest national Sunday newspaper, has become feverish and, at times, fairly ridiculous.

The (all male) appointments committee includes Peter Preston, *The Guardian*'s long-serving Editor who is soon to become Editor-in-Chief of both his paper and *The Observer*. Hugo Young, chairman of the Scott Trust (the independent board which runs the two titles) and Jim Markwick, the group managing director.

They are joined by Anthony Sampson, a former *Observer* journalist and Michael Unger, Editor of the *Manchester Evening News*. Jonathan Wilson, chief sub-editor on *The Observer*'s city desk, and Andrew Billen, a feature writer on the paper.

In making the appointment, the committee is honour-bound to take account of the views of the paper's staff. This rather chummy approach, newly borrowed from *The Guardian*, is far removed from the exercise of proprietorial power common in most newspapers. It will do nothing, however, to ease the single biggest problem the committee members face — the apparent lack of candidates on the bench left who also have the technical competence to edit a national newspaper.

Such a dearth of suitable contenders is uncharacteristic in an industry driven by ambition and renowned for its competitiveness.

Under the editorship of John Penby, installed at the behest of Mr Preston in 1993 within days of the

The battle for Britain's oldest Sunday paper

Guardian group's £27 million acquisition of the paper, *The Observer* packed its punches with a number of scoops, notably revelations about the Government's secret contacts with the IRA before the Downing Street declaration in December 1993. But it also lost fair and became locked into a way of thinking that made the paper worthy but dull.

The *Guardian* group is determined to reinvent it with a distinct identity of its own as a serious paper of strong ideas. That, after all, is what broadsheet Sunday papers are for. The group's senior managers believe that simply turning it into a sort of *Guardian* on Sunday would not be enough to satisfy the dual commercial imperatives of seeing off the *Independent on Sunday* and providing a credible alternative to *The Sunday Times* and the increasingly popular *Sunday Telegraph*.

Around 20 people have so far put themselves up for the post. At least six ambitious *Observer* insiders have applied and have submitted to the committee personal manifestos outlining their vision for the paper's future.

They include John Price, the deputy editor who has been running the show since Mr Penby's

departure two weeks ago, Adrian Hamilton, leader page writer, Melanie Phillips, a columnist, David Rose, home affairs correspondent, and Michael Pilgrim, editor of the paper's *Life* magazine. Michael Stent, a sub-editor, is also said to have put his name forward. Roger Alton, features editor of *The Guardian*, says that reports suggesting he is in the running for the job are "preposterous". With such a wide field of inside candidates, few of whom have hands-on experi-

With such a wide field of candidates, few with hands-on experience, the smart money is on an outsider

ence of editing a paper, the smart money is on an outsider. But who? Magnus Linklater, 52, former Editor of *The Scotsman*, and Stewart Stevenson, 57, Editor of the *London Evening Standard*, are said not to be interested. Eve Pollard, who has edited both the *Sunday Mirror* and *Sunday Express*, would probably be interested but has not been interviewed. Another candidate mentioned is the ambitious Andrew Jaspam, newly-appointed editor of *The Scotsman*.

Once considered the front-runner, Ian Jack, 49, Editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, has not even applied. Mr Jack's page-one splash two weeks ago about the role of Cherie Booth, the barrister wife of the Labour leader Tony Blair, in prosecuting poll tax defaulters, is said not to have gone down well at the *Guardian* group anyway.

But if the new editor's primary aim was to strengthen *The Observer* by destabilising the *Independent on Sunday*, Mr Jack would have been the perfect candidate — especially if he had managed to persuade "Sindy" stars such as Neal Ascherson and Alan Watkins to join him.

Polly Toynbee, who worked on both *The Guardian* and *The Observer* before becoming the BBC's social affairs editor in 1988, has been interviewed for the job, as has Will Hutton. *The Guardian*'s trenchant economic commentator, some believe Toynbee might be one of the few candidates actually to benefit from, and maybe even appreciate, having Mr Preston in situ as Editor-in-Chief. But the fact that she tried and failed to capture the job when it was last up for grabs in 1993 might well count against her.

The great irony is that the ideal candidate for the job is Mr Preston himself. Although he is said not to

be keen on the idea, it was he who led the takeover of *The Observer* and maintained sales of *The Guardian* without joining the price-cutting war, and who is pushing for the current changes. It would, of course, be a high-risk strategy for him personally, after 20 successful years at *The Guardian*, to take on single-handedly such a potentially perilous task.

Guardian group insiders deny that they are finding it difficult to choose a successor to Mr Penby, pointing out that they had first to appoint an editor to *The Guardian* (Alan Rusbridger takes up that position in two weeks' time) before they could begin sorting out *The Observer*.

Launched in 1791 by W.S. Bourne, an impetuous but resourceful young Irishman, as a high-principled anti-government paper, it had changed allegiances by the mid-19th century and established close links with the Government.

At that time it even published editorials in support of its foreign policy written by Lord Palmerston, who very kindly arranged payments to the paper from Secret Service funds.

The paper is no stranger to financial worries either. When Alfred Harmsworth, later Viscount Northcliffe, bought it in 1905, he described it as "lying in the Fleet Ditch". While its current state is nowhere near that bad, it is widely agreed that it has taken the *Guardian* group longer than expected to turn round the paper's fortunes. With circulation at 467,909, *The Observer* is now selling 37,500 fewer copies every week than it was when the group bought it.

Whoever wins *The Observer* editorship faces the huge task of repositioning it as a vibrant left-of-centre paper capable of winning back many of the readers — particularly women and the young — who have defected to the right-of-centre heavies which currently dominate the Sunday market.

Journalists prefer one boss, not two

No editor worth his chair would welcome the tutelage of a superior

Peter Preston, the retiring Editor of *The Guardian*, has taken quite a gamble with *The Observer*, Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, which the *Guardian* group bought less than two years ago. He is assuming the title of Editor-in-Chief of both *The Guardian* and *The Observer* and, on precedent, that is a non-job. No editor worth his chair would welcome sitting under the tutelage of a superior, however distinguished, closely watching his every move. It would not help his morale one iota. Worse, it would not help to lift spirits among the staff. Journalists prefer one boss, not two.

Questions of morale and confidence are important to editorial staff. If that level is low, then journalists tend to operate below par, ideas don't flow, sparks don't fly. If on the other hand staff are happy and know what the paper is trying to do, they will tackle their work with zest, a powerful current of ideas flows and readers come back in their thousands.

Peter Preston may have believed he was doing *The Observer* a good turn by becoming Editor-in-Chief.

His retirement as editor has been marked by many justified tributes to the distinction of his reign and the success of the paper in holding its core readership while refusing to follow the cost-cutters. But Denis Hamilton was equally successful as Editor of *The Sunday Times* in the 1960s. As Editor-in-Chief and chief executive his touch was less sure.

Max Hastings is Editor-in-Chief of *Telegraph Newspapers*, but he is also Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and no one can doubt where his main interests lie. Before him Lord Hartwell was Editor-in-Chief of the two *Telegraphs* but also the chief proprietor and chairman: no one can claim this combination was a success, leading as it did to

the takeover by Conrad Black. Sir David English is Editor-in-Chief of Associated Newspapers, but also chairman and is inevitably somewhat aloof from day-to-day editing.

The *Guardian* group is now going through an elaborate selection process to find a new editor of *The Observer*, the journalists as well as the Scott Trust are involved. To everyone's satisfaction a similar exercise resulted in the appointment of Alan Rusbridger as the new Editor of *The Guardian*, perhaps prompting the question of why wasn't he offered *The Observer* when the *Guardian* group first moved in 18 months ago?

The Sunday paper is a less attractive proposition. It is now running a poor third among the Sunday broadsheets — 860,000 behind *The Sunday Times* and almost 200,000 behind *The Sunday Telegraph*. There is no margin for the loss of old readers before new ones are recruited.

And who will be the new face of the paper? Writing in *The Guardian* last week David McKie revealed that, on the day Rusbridger was appointed the newspaper had entertained off the record "an immensely distinguished national figure".

Here's another poser for the editor-in-chief elect. Who will preside when the next distinguished visitor comes along? The editor or his immediate superior? The answer should be clear: there can be only one editor. But is it?

The name of the new editor is due to be announced this week. But the uncertainties surrounding his or her authority might have pushed the calibre of candidates below expectations. Maybe a further search will be required.

CHARLES WINTOUR
The author is a former Editor of *The Evening Standard*



David English: aloof from editing

Taggart's arresting allure

THE first episode of a three-part *Taggart* edition, in which the late Mark McManus made his last appearance as the Glasgow detective, was predictably popular in the Scottish Television region, Alexandra Frean writes. John Thaw's new courtroom drama series, *Knave*, QC, on the other hand, was appreciated more by viewers in and around the London region served by Carlton Television during the week and London Weekend Television at the weekend. It is no surprise that Thaw, best remembered as *Inspector Morse*, the Oxford detective, should appeal more to

southern audiences. But other findings of our chart, which compares the top ten programmes among STV viewers and Carlton/LWT audiences, are less easily explained. BBC's *Holiday* programme, number four north of the border, does not even appear in the London chart. Though audiences served by STV are smaller in absolute numbers, the TVR column in our chart — which measures the percentage of viewers within each category watching individual programmes — suggests that on any given evening a greater proportion of viewers in this region is watching television than in London.

THE TIMES TV TOP 20: REGIONS WATCHING MOST AND LEAST

January 9 to 15, 1995									
Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Audience (millions)	TVR	Region	Notes
EastEnders	Thu 12	19.31	BBC1	BBC	Soap	3.3	30.4	Carlton/LWT Region	
Coronation Street	Mon 9	19.35	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	3.2	29.5	Carlton/LWT Region	
A Touch of Frost	Sun 15	20.31	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Entertainment	2.6	24.3	Carlton/LWT Region	
The National Lottery Live	Sat 14	19.50	BBC1	BBC	Drama series	2.6	23.7	Carlton/LWT Region	
Casualty	Sat 14	20.07	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	2.5	22.8	Carlton/LWT Region	
Blind Date	Sat 14	19.19	ITV	LWT	Drama series	2.5	22.8	Carlton/LWT Region	
Knave	Tue 10	20.30	ITV	Carlton Television	Documentary	2.4	21.6	Carlton/LWT Region	
Animal Hospital - Live	Tue 12	20.00	BBC1	BBC	Lifestyle	2.3	21.6	Carlton/LWT Region	
Antiques Roadshow	Sun 15	17.20	BBC1	BBC	Lifestyle	2.3	21.6	Carlton/LWT Region	
The Glass Virgin	Fri 13	21.01	ITV	Worldwide Int'l TV	Drama series	2.3	21.6	Carlton/LWT Region	
Coronation Street	Mon 9	19.35	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	1.2	34.6	Scottish Television	
Taggart	Wed 11	21.02	ITV	Scottish Television	Drama series	1.1	31.6	Scottish Television	
EastEnders	Thu 12	19.31	BBC1	BBC	Soap	1.0	30.5	Scottish Television	
Holiday	Tue 10	19.21	BBC1	BBC	Lifestyle	1.0	29.9	Scottish Television	
Casualty	Sat 14	20.07	BBC1	BBC	Drama series	1.0	28.4	Scottish Television	
The National Lottery Live	Sat 14	19.50	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	1.0	28.4	Scottish Television	
Knave	Mon 9	21.01	ITV	Warner Brothers Int'l	Film	0.9	27.3	Scottish Television	
High Road	Fri 13	20.02	ITV	Scottish Television	Drama series	0.9	27.3	Scottish Television	
International Gladiators	Sat 14	18.14	ITV	LWT	Game show	0.9	27.3	Scottish Television	

Source: Broadcasters' Audience Research Board/David Graham & Associates (0822-322624)
Figures are unrounded and rounded. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).
Regional transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

British businesses have still to learn what marketing is all about, according to a new study

Forget the glitz, does the customer want it?

A group of senior businessmen, backed by the Government, last week exhorted marketers to start marketing marketing. They are pushing for the creation of a UK Marketing Council charged with getting marketers to speak with one voice and UK companies to focus on the critical importance of customer satisfaction.

The move is the result of collaboration between Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, Sir Michael Perry, Unilever's chairman, George Bull, chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive and Sir Alistair Grant, the chairman of Argill. It follows an Employment Department-funded study last year which drew attention to the low status of marketing in many British companies.

Marketing, says the study, has a bad image. Its role is often restricted to advertising and branding and its glitz, out-to-lunch image overshadows its role in identifying revenue-generating opportunities. Training of marketing staff lacks quality, it continues. Overall, there is a notable weakness in marketing and this is undermining the competitiveness of UK businesses.

Marketing, says Sir Colin Marshall, leader of the group, is all about providing satisfaction to customers and should therefore be the driving force behind business. Yet while British companies are competing with world class, marketing-led companies in international markets, if you look around the British company boardrooms you will find very few people who have any acknowledged marketing experience.

The new Marketing Council, to be launched in September, will draw together bodies like the Chartered Institute of Marketing and the Marketing Society as well as senior business people in an attempt to tackle this catalogue of failings. According to chief executives interviewed for the study, brands have poor, short-term attitudes and the public still sees making a profit as a bad thing.



Richard Branson: a master of marketing

There is an enormous amount of confusion about what marketing actually is. Too many people equate it with sales or advertising, says Stephen Woodward, chairman of the Marketing Society. Being sales-led is all about

producing products and then trying to sell them, rather than discovering what people like in the first place. Advertising and branding is just the tip of the iceberg: it is the strategy underneath that really matters.

Painstaking market research may, for example, identify a gap in the market or the need for a different type of product. This insight might result in changes in a company's manufacturing process or purchasing policies.

The Marketing Council's task is further complicated by continuing debate about whether marketing is an overall philosophy or a technical skill carried out by a separate, specialist department.

Many consummate marketers, like Richard Branson,

make a point of boasting that they have never read a book about marketing in their lives. And many of the most formidable marketing companies in the world, such as the Japanese consumer electronics firms, do not have separate marketing departments.

It is now accepted that everyone in a company needs to know at least the basics to have some sort of customer orientation, points out Dr Chris Giff of First Choice Marketing, the consultants who conducted the study.

Dr John Stubbs, a senior marketer seconded to head the project from Unilever, agrees that outstanding marketing skills are not just a matter for the marketing department, but lie in the way the company is organised. Initially, the new council will focus on improving training standards and helping firms to identify best practice.

Sir Colin Marshall says: "We want marketing to be seen as the driving force behind business. The Marketing Council will be committed to moving marketing from an ancillary activity to a pivotal position in UK commerce and industry."

ALAN MITCHELL

NEWS

Document fuels Ireland fears

The British and Irish Governments have drawn up a document, seen by *The Times*, that brings the prospect of a united Ireland closer than it has been at any time since partition in 1920.

The constitutional deal, to be discussed at a summit between John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Taoiseach, is certain to be seen as a sell-out by the Unionist community. Pages 1, 2

Smoking 'victims' win legal aid

People with lung cancer and other diseases blamed on smoking have won legal aid to investigate if they can bring a suit for damages against the tobacco industry. The Legal Aid Board is to grant support to around 200 people who claim smoking has damaged their health. Page 1

Floods worsen

The Netherlands tottered on the edge of ecological disaster as a quarter million of its people were moved out of their homes in provinces engulfed by rising floods. Pages 1, 10

Rebels rejoice

A surprise statement by eight of the nine whipless Tory MPs said they were "much encouraged" by recent statements by the Prime Minister and other ministers on Europe. Page 1

Rail cut fears

The Government was accused of preparing deep cuts in rail services across southern England and South Wales after it announced minimum service requirements for four private operators. Page 2

BT pay clash

Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, claimed his £663,000-a-year job was tougher than a junior hospital doctor's. His remarks prompted protests. Page 2

Merry widows

Two septuagenarian widows described their life on the run and vowed never to return to their families. Page 3

'£10m' trial cost

The cost to taxpayers of the fraud trial involving Kevin and Ian Maxwell is likely to exceed £10 million, lawyers and MPs predicted. Page 4

Wet-look Princess turns heads

The Princess of Wales has followed in the footsteps of supermodels and pop stars by adopting a "wet look" hairstyle designed to break with the past. The Princess unveiled the sleek style in New York when she attended an award ceremony held by the American fashion industry. She set off the new hair-do with a navy blue evening dress. Page 1

Teaching condemned

Almost a quarter of state school lessons are poor, with reading and writing particularly weak in primary schools, says HM Chief Inspector. Page 6

Ministers' ethics

Greater employment restrictions on former ministers could make it hard for them to support their families, Tony Newton told the Nolan inquiry. Page 8

TV bans greed

From today television advertisers cannot show people gorging on chocolate bars or children enjoying midnight feasts. Page 5

Going nuclear

Sizewell B, Britain's latest and possibly last nuclear power station, was switched on to provide electricity for up to 1.5 million people. Page 7

Britain intervenes

A British minister is to meet a political leader of the East Timor resistance in an attempt to persuade Indonesia to loosen its grip. Page 9

Mexican aid

President Clinton abandoned congressional approval for his \$40 billion Mexican rescue but acted unilaterally to support the plunging peso. Page 11

Quake anger

Emperor Akihito received a cool reception when he visited the quake city Kobe. Page 9



A Dutch boy cuddling his teddy bear in a hall sheltering 400 flood victims at Nijmegen in the eastern Netherlands. Pages 1, 10

BUSINESS

Economy: Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, believes the economy has passed the highest point of its cycle. Page 23

BCI: Creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International should receive their first payment this summer after four years of legal wrangling followed its collapse. Page 23

Jobs: BT halted its programme of company-wide redundancies after cutting 100,000 jobs the past five years. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 4.3 points to close at 2991.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 79.8 to 79.9 after a fall from \$1.5960 to \$1.5870 and a rise from DM2.3996 to DM2.4056. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: England A defeated India A by five wickets in Calcutta to secure the three-match series 2-0. David Hemp of Glamorgan scored 99 not out. Page 42

Football: Stanley Matthews celebrates his eightieth birthday today, still spry and lean, and wondering with detached modesty what all the fuss is about. Page 44

Rugby league: Jonathan Davies—acknowledged by some as the best player in the world of either rugby code—leads Wales against England in the European championship. Page 41

Football: Alvin Martin, the West Ham United defender, had his sending-off in the match against Sheffield Wednesday cut to a booking by the referee. Page 40

ARTS

Time and motion: At Inigo Jones's magnificent Queen's House in Greenwich, southeast London, a Japanese artist is sending 45 toy cars speeding round the floor to make a statement about the concept of time. Page 35

Impressed by the French: The Barbican's new exhibition "Impressionism in Britain" covers, happily, famous Monets as well as obscure Edwardians. Page 36

Trojan task: Was Tippett wise to make his own libretto from the *Iliad* for *King Priam*, now revived by the ENO? Page 37

Jazz meets classical: London's Festival Hall was the venue for another Lalo Schifrin experiment involving symphony orchestra and jazz musicians. Page 36

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

CEREAL THRILLER
Geoff Brown on
Bridget Fonda and
The Road to Wellville,
the story of the man
who invented cornflakes

BOOKS FOR 20p
How to get a good
read for just 20p:
see the Books page

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Michael Crichton of *Jurassic Park* is the creator of *ER*, a Chicago-based hospital drama with echoes of *Casualty* (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond finds hot drinks competing for star billing as *Peak Practice* returns for a new series. Page 43

OPINION

Governors of Ireland

A road has been marked out which leads — if it leads anywhere — to joint authority and eventual unification. It is for the British and Irish Governments to prove that it also leads to peace. Page 15

Rocky rails

For the next three years running the railways will be hugely expensive, forcing BR and franchisees to cut services to the bone. Once lost, both services and markets are hard to recover. Page 15

Luck, be a lassie

Of course we know that random really does mean what it says. Winning numbers pay no more heed to geography than to four-leafed clovers. Page 15

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Local government leaves Westminster politicians mystified. The subject is like a poisonous mist emanating from some far-off swamp. Sometimes it rises without warning and kills dozens of innocent MPs. Page 14

JOHN BIFFEN

We are beginning to learn that Europe is not essentially about trade: it is about the creation of new continental structures of government, potentially to the detriment of the nation state. Page 14

PETER RIDDELL

Although the differences in practice on European policies between a Major and a Blair government might be much less than either would claim, the shift in the balance is real. Page 8

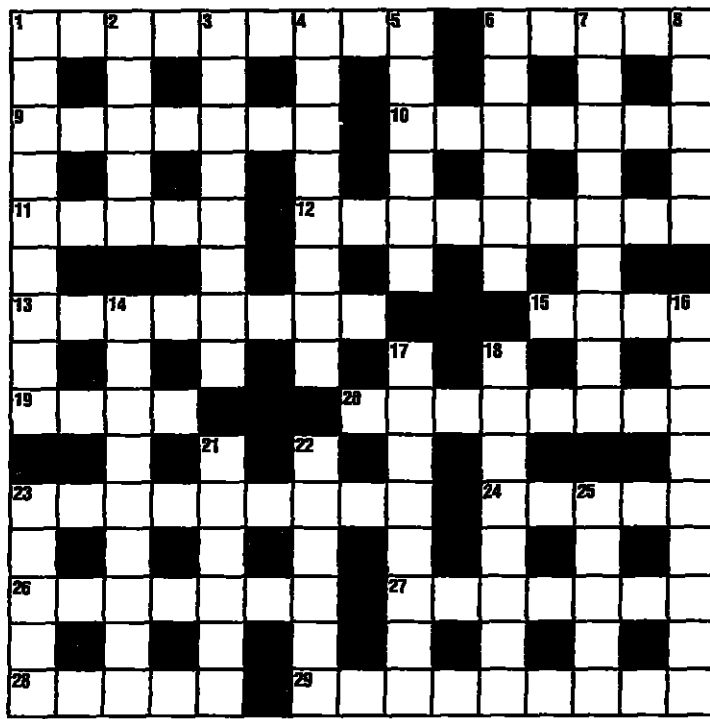
OBITUARIES

Alexander Stahlberg, German opponent of Hitler; Sir Henry Lintell, former High Commissioner to Canada; Michael Coleman, sports journalist. Page 9

LETTERS

Western aid in Chechnya; electronic organs; older women and breast cancer screening. Page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,767



- ACROSS
- Trim and neat — almost navicular (9)
 - Parrot tucking bill into its stomach (5)
 - Potentially bad sign for the corporation (7)
 - Sailor king has blue jacket fastened together (7)
 - Increase in such speed in the saw has a braking effect (5)
 - Pine cabin as a communal dwelling? (9)
 - Project in which pair toured all over the place (8)
 - Station bar (4)
 - First sign of cocaine being carried by Tibetan ox causes much talk (4)
 - Completely clothing a considerable number in a lavish way (9)
 - River romp? (5)
- DOWN
- Punch drunk, with a dash, is irresponsible (4-5)
 - Attempt to leave work for the river (5)
 - For correspondence about a line, see Blake's "Tiger" (8)
 - Earthworms, for example, can be eye-openers to a girl (8)
 - Some determined to catch stoat in northern regions (6)
 - Penny hurts Henry (6)
 - Wood, perhaps, as a transmitter of heat? (9)
 - Woman, rose with difficulty, not getting better (5)
 - Kisses as clues to adultery (9)
 - Walked in peasant like some big cheeses (9)
 - Lasso the clue to innamorata? (4-4)
 - Curate's breakfast-table utensil, to encourage court? (3-5)
 - Morning when 17 ran off with the evening implement? (6)
 - Hearty water spaniel, possibly? (3-3)
 - Holy man hiding a king in a tree (5)
 - Girl's letter from Greece to American lawyer (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,766

PHARMACY PRECIS
I Z E N A O P
CLANGOUR ATAXIA
K L A B T E S N
L E A U R A L I
E A U R A L I
C O U N T E R P O I S E
E A N D P R E N D
M A N G E L W I Z E L
B G T I D S A
I N S T I N T S I S L A M
I N D O C I O
T H R E A D E N D A N G E R
E A T H A
R A M R O D O R I E N T A L

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For regional forecast, dial 0800 500 followed by code.

Greater London	731
North-South	732
Central & NW	733
South & SE	734
West Midlands	735
East Midlands	736
Yorkshire & NE	737
North East	738
West Midlands	739
West Midlands	740
West Midlands	741
West Midlands	742
West Midlands	743
West Midlands	744
West Midlands	745
West Midlands	746
West Midlands	747
West Midlands	748
West Midlands	749
West Midlands	750

AA ROADWATCH

For AA traffic reports, dial 0300 401 followed by code.

London & SE	751
North-South	752
Central & NW	753
South & SE	754
West Midlands	755
East Midlands	756
Yorkshire & NE	757
North East	758
West Midlands	759
West Midlands	760
West Midlands	761
West Midlands	762
West Midlands	763
West Midlands	764
West Midlands	765
West Midlands	766
West Midlands	767
West Midlands	768
West Midlands	769
West Midlands	770

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday, highest dry temp: St Mary's, Isle of Scilly, 10.2 (50F); lowest dry temp: Loch Glacann, Highland, 2.0 (35F); highest rainfall: Margate, Kent, 0.54in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 5.6 hours; sunrise: 7.17a; sunset: 7.17p.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	7.40 am	4.49 pm
Edinburgh	7.14 pm	7.55 am

First quarter February 7
London 4.49 pm to 7.38 am
Edinburgh 4.58 pm to 7.45 am
Manchester 4.51 pm to 7.53 am
Penzance 5.15 pm to 7.55 am

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be wet but mild. Brighter weather with scattered showers will soon reach northern England and spread slowly south, perhaps not reaching the extreme southeast. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be brighter with showers, wintry in the north.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, Central N: persistent rain, followed later by clearer weather from the north. Wind strong to gale force southwesterly, soon moderating.

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: clear or sunny intervals and scattered showers, but rain at first in south. Wind westerly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: patchy rain in the south at first, then mainly dry with clear intervals. Wind westerly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: clear or sunny spells and wintry showers, some of the showers thundery. Wind westerly, strong to gale force, turning northwesterly. Max 4C (39F).

Outlook: dry and bright at first, rain spreading from the west later. Temperatures mostly above normal.

AROUND BRITAIN

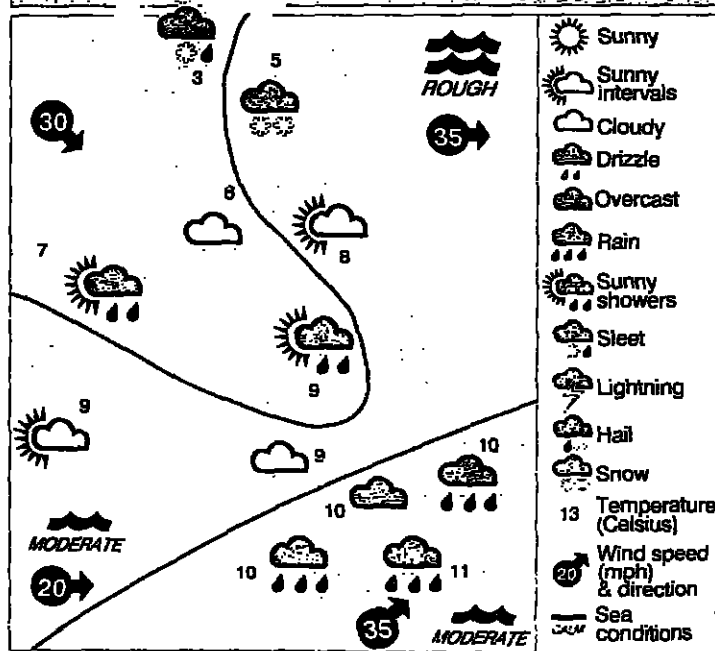
24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloudy; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail; i = rain; sh = shower; s = sea; ss = sea mist; t = thunder.

	Sun	Rain	Sea	Temp	Wind	Dir	Speed
Aberdeen	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S
Anglesey	5.7	0.10	C	36	S	37	S

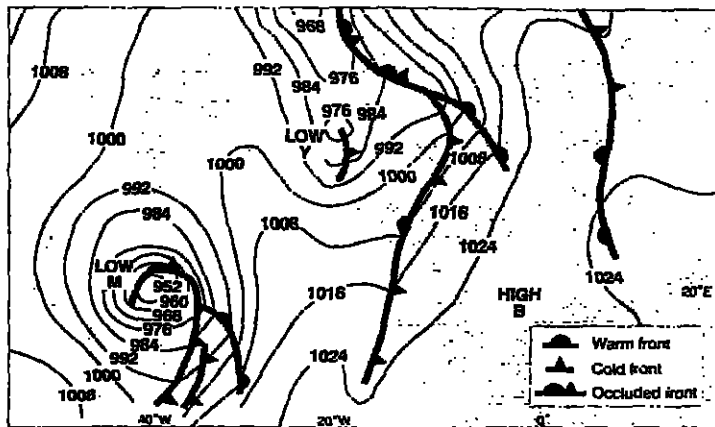
ABROAD

	Temp	Wind	Dir	Speed
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8
Algeria	15.5	5.9	C	2.8

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon, low Y fills and becomes indistinct; low M remains as deep and moves north. High B declines while staying almost still.



HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51
London Bridge	2.18	7.32	2.46	7.51

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SECRETARIAL 32

For the confident, now is the time to seek a new job



ARTS 35-37

A brief but moving history of time for the Queen's House



FOCUS 38

How young deaf people are sounding out

TODAY'S SPORTS FIXTURES
Page 40

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1 1995

C&G aims to open up new front in mortgage war

By Robert Miller

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society yesterday attempted to open up a new front in the mortgage war by promising to undercut the base mortgage rate of the top five lenders by at least 0.25 per cent for the remainder of 1995.

But other leading lenders last night dismissed the C&G move as a public relations exercise and indicated that they were unlikely to follow suit. They said that C&G had been forced to make the "Mortgage Price Promise" as a conciliatory

gesture towards its 375,000 mortgage borrowers who will not share in the bonus payout under the proposed £1.8 billion takeover of the society by Lloyds Bank.

Later this month, C&G will mail members with the transfer documents relating to the takeover prior to the crucial vote being cast in March. For the deal to proceed, more than half of the society's borrowers will have to vote in favour of the terms.

Nationwide, the UK's second-largest society, which has a standard mortgage rate of 8.44 per cent,

said: "The C&G is a niche player and we have a much larger customer base. We think that our mortgage range, which includes a 1 per cent discount on the variable loan rate for seven years, is already competitive."

David Gilchrist, general manager of the Halifax, which set a new variable mortgage rate of 8.35 per cent earlier this month, said: "We intend to remain competitive in the total mortgage market. We are more concerned about the proposed cuts in DSS mortgage income support payments. We are still

pressing the Government to abandon this tack. It will damage the already fragile recovery of the housing market and prospects for the growth of homeownership in the UK."

The C&G mortgage promise will apply to new borrowers as well as existing borrowers, of whom at least 75 per cent are on annual payment reviews. These borrowers have had their monthly mortgage repayments set at the society's present variable rate of 8.1 per cent.

The C&G added: "C&G is not following the Halifax and other

lenders who have recently increased their mortgage rates. Under Mortgage Price Promise procedures, C&G will review its mortgage rates every month and then make any adjustment on the first of the following month. The first such review will be in April, with a possible rate adjustment on May 1."

In a letter to existing borrowers, John Bays, chairman of the C&G, said the mortgage promise would not be affected if the Lloyds deal did not proceed. He added: "At this stage, I can give you no guarantee

about extending C&G's Mortgage Promise into 1996, but I do believe that joining the Lloyds bank group is the best way of securing competitive rates for C&G borrowers in the future."

The C&G declined to put a figure on how much its price-cutting exercise would cost. But a spokeswoman said: "It is money very well spent. We want to reward the loyalty of our existing borrowers and attract new customers right across the mortgage books."

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	2991.6	(-4.3)
Yield	4.52%	
FT-SE All share	1480.56	(-2.89)
Nikkei	18949.82	(-103.06)
New York	2844.53	(+12.45)*
Dow Jones	470.20	(+1.69)*
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	7.73%	(7.73%)
Yield		

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Libor long gilt	101.1%	(101.1%)
Future (Mar)		

STERLING

New York	1.5824*	(1.5950)
London		
\$	1.5791	(1.5839)
DM	2.4108	(2.3874)
FF	8.2980	(8.3180)
Sfr	2.0515	(2.0216)
Yen	157.27	(156.73)
£ Index	79.9	(79.9)

DOLLAR

London	1.5240*	(1.5053)
DM	5.2850*	(5.2240)
FF	1.2840*	(1.2876)
Yen	98.45*	(98.43)
£ Index	62.5	(62.3)

Tokyo close Yen 98.58

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.50	(\$16.45)
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GOLD

London close	\$374.85	(\$375.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

Governor says UK cycle has peaked

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that the economy had passed the highest point of its cycle, but he added that he was still committed to the strategy of raising interest rates in small steps to prevent inflation building up.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Les Echos* which had London's financial markets scurrying for the correct interpretation, Mr George said that financial markets were exaggerating inflationary pressures and the extent to which interest rates would have to rise — a view he has repeatedly expressed over the past few months.

He noted various indicators, including retail sales and industrial output, which had slowed at the end of last year. But he then told reporters in Paris that the small slowdown in overall gross domestic product reported for the fourth quarter was not yet confirmed and that growth was still above its long-term sustainable trend.

Small upward moves in interest rates, perhaps earlier than the markets expected, were central to a strategy designed to avoid the "savage" rises in interest rates seen in the past.

In an initial reaction to Mr George's remarks, the gilt market and the short sterling futures contract, which reflects market expectations for interest rates, bounced in belief that he would not press for another half-point rise at tomorrow's monetary meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

But after reflection, markets decided that Mr George is still likely to advise another rise in interest rates, if not at this week's meeting, then next month. They seized on another remark in which he suggested that a rise in US interest rates this week would make an increase in British rates more likely, although that would be only one factor in coming to a judgment. He said that, in global terms, "we have entered a period where the trend is more towards increases in

interest rates rather than stability".

The financial markets are widely expecting the US Federal Reserve to raise US interest rates by another half point after its two-day Federal Open Market Committee meeting, which ends today.

Mr George also used his trip to Paris to express misgivings about a single European currency and politicians' assertions that the single currency and monetary union could be achieved by 1997.

He said in a speech to bankers that he understood the importance attached to the Maastricht timetable, but added: "I nevertheless find it difficult to judge now whether or when the necessary economic conditions can or will be met."

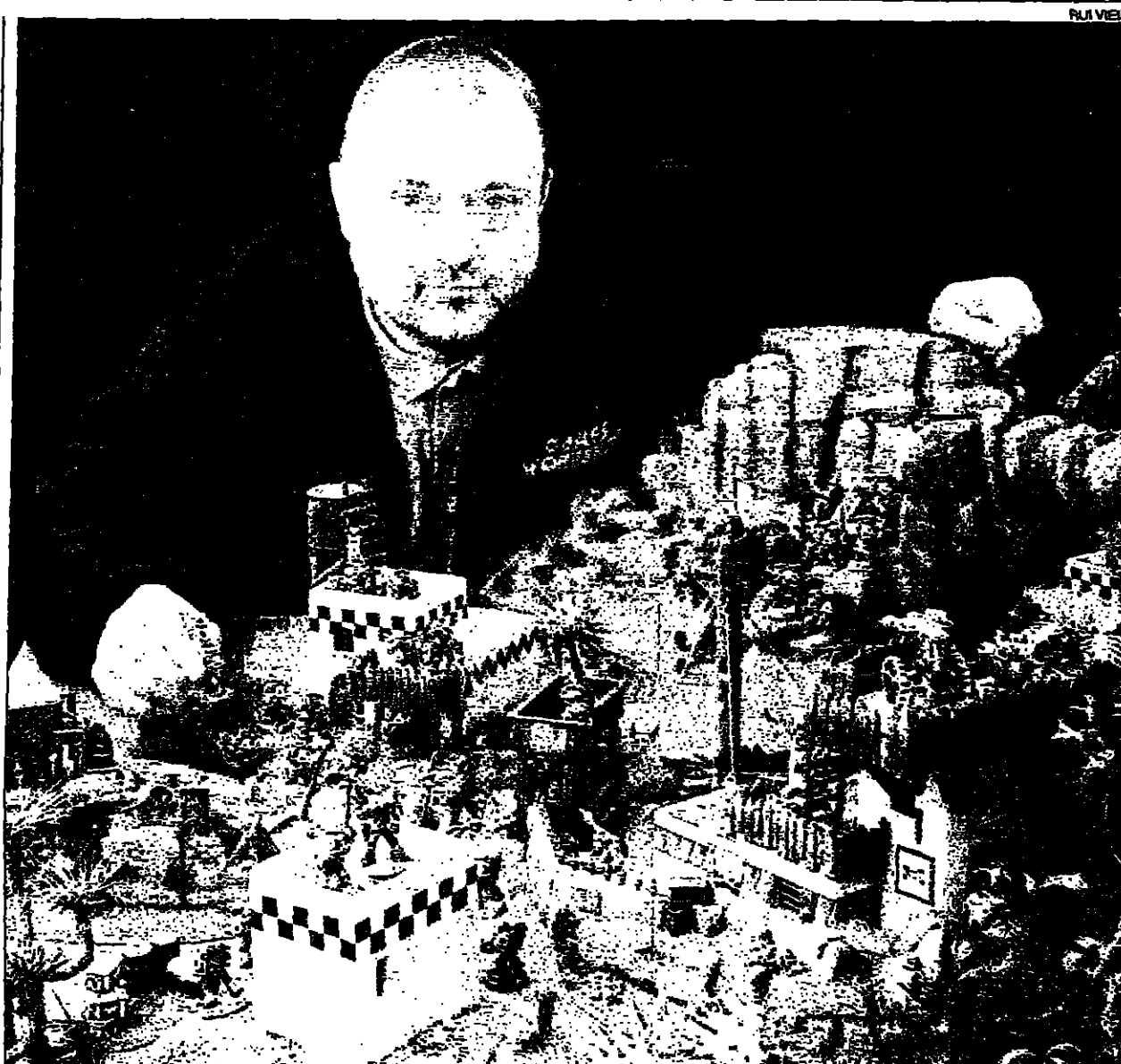
Highlighting some aspects of a single currency, he noted that "once parties are locked there is absolutely no safety valve comparable to realignment". Different rates of productivity or earnings growth could create serious strains.

"Inadequate convergence would be likely to mean slower growth and higher or more rapidly rising unemployment in some countries," he said. This imbalance could be addressed only through long-term stagnation and unemployment in some part of the monetary union, migration or tax transfers to the high unemployment countries.

Those are not particularly attractive options, he said. □ The Confederation of British Industry's Pay Databank showed that awards in manufacturing averaged 3.1 per cent in the three months ending December 31, compared with 3.2 per cent in the three months ending in November.

In the service sector, awards averaged 3.5 per cent against 4.1 per cent previously. The number of firms freezing pay rose to just under one in seven manufacturers and one in four service sector firms.

Robbie Gilbert, CBI employment affairs director, said: "Certainly there is no sign that pay increases are leaping ahead."



Battle victory: Tom Kirby, chief executive of Games Workshop Group, the war games maker and retailer, saw pre-tax profits surge by 28 per cent to £2.47 million in the six months to November 27. The interim dividend is 1.5p, due on April 28.

Rover has best year since 1989

OUTPUT at Rover, the British car manufacturer, rose 16 per cent last year to 478,000 vehicles, its best performance since 1989, buoyed by strong demand for the 600 series and surging sales of the four-wheel-drive Discovery (Colin Narborough writes).

Demand in continental Europe for Rovers jumped 16 per cent last year, outpacing the 3 per cent growth in Britain. Despite the stronger demand from across the Channel, Rover's market share in Europe was unchanged at 3.2 per cent.

BMW, which acquired Rover from British Aerospace for £800 million last year, said that Rover was now operating its plants at full capacity and had restored output to pre-recession levels, taking on an extra 2,000 production line workers.

BMW described its 1994 profit as satisfactory, but it will not release the figures until the end of next month.

BT job cutting to end, MPs told

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BT yesterday abandoned its programme of company-wide redundancies after cutting 100,000 jobs over the past five years.

The company said that its current wave of job losses — thought to be about 15,000 this year — is expected to be the last, with any future job cuts going through normal staff wastage.

BT's declaration is likely to take City analysts by surprise, since it had been widely expected that the company would want to continue to reduce its workforce, as technology changed and more competitors entered telecommunications, until its payroll was below 100,000.

It is likely to be 130,000 by the end of the year. Sir Iain Vallance, BT chairman, announced the change in evidence to the Commons employment committee. "I hope very much that the company-wide redundancy scheme will be the last one," he said.

BT has put in place each year recently a number of redundancy programmes called "Release", under the latest of which, Release 95, it expects to reduce its headcount further, by 15,000. In March 1989, BT employed 244,418. By the end of last year, the payroll was 145,413.

In written evidence to the committee, BT said that all job cuts had been by voluntary redundancies, and without disruption to services or industrial relations.

According to BT, of employees who left in the 1992 and 1993 schemes, only 19 per cent were left unemployed and 64 per cent of those in work had found jobs within six months of leaving BT, with many now working for its competitors.

Sir Iain said: "Beyond 1995-96 we would hope that normal losses and resourcing activities will be sufficient to deal with any changes in BT's staffing requirements although there may still need to be some localised schemes."

North Sea oil output rises 25%

By Carl Mortished

NORTH SEA oil production has risen 25 per cent to its highest levels for more than eight years. Revenue from oil and gas sales continues to benefit Britain's gross domestic product and current account, but oil group profits and tax revenue to the Treasury are being kept in check by competitive oil prices.

The average price of Brent crude fell 7 per cent to \$15.91 last year, the lowest level since 1988.

Oil production in December reached 2.71 million barrels per day, just short of the all-time record of 2.82 million bpd in 1985. Revenues from oil and gas contributed £37 million a day to Britain.

Mark Shea, energy economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "Average oil and gas revenues rose 11 per cent over 1993, but North Sea oil companies may be slightly disappointed with this return given the rise in oil output."

Hopes that increasing demand for energy would boost oil prices have been dashed by a mild winter and continuing growth in supply from non-Opec countries. Flooding on the Rhine has added to the problem: transport problems have left Rotterdam refineries overstocked with fuel oil.

Pennington, page 25

Top gear

British companies are showing the highest expectations for employment throughout Europe according to a survey by the European Chambers of Commerce. West Germany produced the greatest degree of pessimism. Page 24

Overdrive

General Motors made \$17 million every day between October and December, which drove the world's biggest carmaker to a better-than-expected fourth quarter and record annual results. GM made \$4.9 billion for the year. Page 25

BCCI creditors hope for summer payment

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

CREDITORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International should receive their first payment this summer after four years of legal wrangling that started with the failure of the bank in 1991.

A \$1.8 billion compensation deal from the Abu Dhabi authorities, the bank's majority shareholders, required court approval in England, the Cayman Islands and Luxembourg. The Luxembourg court yesterday became the last of the three to approve the deal, negotiated by Brian Smouha, a partner of Touche Ross, one of the bank's liquidators.

Georges Baden, one of the bank's court-

appointed Luxembourg liquidators, said that depositors should receive a payment of 15p in the pound, with the first payment likely to be made in the summer. Fred Goodwin, a Touche partner, said that creditors could receive up to 20p in the pound in July if another settlement with the Saudis is approved by the Luxembourg court next month.

About 35,000 creditors in England and Wales should benefit, though dividends to smaller creditors who held sterling deposits in the UK and who have been compensated by the Bank of England's deposit protection scheme will be repaid to the Bank. The Bank said yesterday that 19,500 people had applied for compensation and almost 18,000 cases had been settled. The value of the compensation

paid stands at £76.4 million. The BCCI Depositors Protection Association welcomed the court approval.

However, a group representing former staff of BCCI is considering an appeal. Final approval from the Luxembourg court could therefore be delayed, though the liquidators hope to know for certain by April 15.

The liquidators do not know how many of the bank's 530,000 creditors worldwide will share in the deal. Some branches of the bank are making separate arrangements and are not taking part in a pooling scheme. Some estimates of the numbers of creditors likely to benefit from the compensation deal run as high as 250,000, though between 50,000 and 60,000 is more likely.



Smouha: negotiator

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UK at peak in cycle, says Euro study

By GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

THE British and Irish economies have reached a peak in the business cycle, according to Eurochambers, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce.

Eurochambers also believes that British companies are showing the highest expectations for employment throughout the whole of Europe. The Brussels-based association surveyed more than 120,000 companies in 65 regions of 11 countries.

The East Midlands led the British optimism on jobs. Rival firms in West Germany are the most pessimistic, blaming collective wage agreements and continued worries over the benefits of extensive rationalisation there.

Eurochambers says that the reasons for the British lead are cyclical, as well as structural. It points out that "employment is a lagging indicator which is not likely to improve until the economy has been strong for some time and investments are used to expand capacity".

Eurochambers adds: "The European Commission rightly states that unemployment is the most immediate problem for Europe and efforts should be made to create a competitive workforce and to stimulate employment. It is unlikely, however, that the level of unemployment in Europe, currently at 10.7 per cent of the workforce, will decrease in the short term."

It also says: "The Community's role in creating jobs should be limited to providing a coherent and transparent framework, together with pro-

viding regional aid... within which enterprises can operate on a fair and competitive basis.

"Eurochambers agrees that the current economic situation requires important changes in wage and social policy to regain competitiveness. Local and sectoral differences have to be taken into account and flexibility and part-time work encouraged in order to recreate competitiveness and employment.

"Artificial job creation schemes or training programmes, which are not responsive to demand, have failed to deliver an expansion in employment opportunities."

Richard Brown, the deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Artificial job creation schemes and training programmes which have been launched in several member states have failed to deliver an expansion in employment opportunities. It is not the task of government, national or European, to provide individuals with a 'Union-wide job guarantee'. This can only be provided by businesses themselves.

"Government policies should aim at price stability and a reduction of public deficits, paving the way to non-inflationary growth. The biggest single factor contributing to net employment growth is an increase in economic activity. The survey shows there is such an increase across Europe. It can only be a matter of time before employment prospects follow."



Jeff Caplan, left, security cameras director, with Richard Clemons, Bob Underhill, finance director, and Harvey Sampson

Pledge to investors on Crest

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ANTHONY NELSON, the Treasury Minister, has moved to reassure private investors worried about the impact of the Crest, the paperless share settlement system to be introduced in the City next year.

He said that investors would be able to retain their share certificates and carry on trading at reasonable cost and with reasonable security.

Mr Nelson was launching the Treasury's public consultation exercise on the new electronic system being developed by the Bank of England which is due to begin operations in the second half of next year.

He added that investors would be able to keep their vital relationships with companies, either through retention of certificates, or through the Crest sponsored-membership option.

Mr Nelson said: "Electronic settlement is needed to maintain and enhance London's standing as a world centre for securities trading." The Treas-

Gardiner sees outcome slip

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GARDINER GROUP, the distributor of security equipment, is raising the total dividend to 0.8p, from 0.73p, in spite of a decline in pre-tax profits to £3.5 million, from £4 million, in the year to October 31. A final dividend of 0.55p (0.5p) is due on April 13. The shares gained 2p, to 17p.

The company, whose chairman is Richard Clemons and whose chief executive is Harvey Sampson, saw turnover rise to £80.5 million, from £78.6 million, but pressure on margins trimmed operating profits to £4.1 million (£4.8 million).

Eastman Kodak dips as job cuts start

EASTMAN KODAK, struggling with a massive restructuring to focus on its core imaging business, announced a sharp drop in its fourth-quarter earnings as it detailed plans to cut 4,000 jobs. Net earnings fell to \$18 million, or 5 cents per share, for the fourth quarter from \$201 million or 61 cents per share a year ago. Latest results include a \$254 million after-tax restructuring charge. For the full year, Kodak's profits rebounded to \$557 million, or \$1.66 per share. The company suffered a loss of \$1.52 billion, or \$4.62 per share, in 1993, when it took a \$2.17 billion charge for accounting changes.

The company said that apart from units that have already been notified, its US employees will be largely unaffected by any more layoffs. Kodak's results also include a \$333 million charge to pay down a huge chunk of its debt and a \$350 million gain from the sale of its non-imaging health businesses. "Looking at the fundamentals earnings from continuing operations without all of the unusual charges — we have strengthened our financial position and established a solid foundation for growth," said George Fisher, Kodak's chairman, president and chief executive.

Law league challenge

REGIONAL law firms are challenging big City practices for private corporate advisory work, according to *Acquisitions Monthly's* league table of the top 20 advisers on UK private takeovers in 1994. Hammond Suddards, of Leeds, came from nowhere to tenth with 80 deals worth a combined £632 million. Everheds, a national practice with roots in Birmingham, was 13th with 78 deals worth £693 million. Two other Birmingham firms, Pensions & Co and Edge & Ellison, made their debut. Slaughter and May remained top with 57 deals worth £5.4 billion and Freshfields was second.

Clark to shut factory

C&J CLARK INTERNATIONAL, the shoemaker, is shutting a factory in Radstock, Avon, with the loss of about 600 jobs. The first wave of cuts were announced in November, when 240 jobs were axed at the factory, which primarily makes children's shoes. Efforts to find an alternative use for the plant failed, and the factory will close before the end of the year with the loss of a further 360 jobs. The company said that it would do its best to provide alternative job opportunities. Overall sales of children's shoes in the UK have fallen by more than 20 per cent in the past five years.

Warburg director goes

SG WARBURG, the City investment bank, has lost another director. Peter Bass, former joint head of the bank's loss-making, fixed-interest and Treasury division and a board director, has resigned. His decision last year to return to America prompted a review of the leadership of the division. After that review, Warburg last month pulled out of Eurobonds, a business created 30 years ago. Mr Bass intends to return to active involvement in the fixed-interest and Treasury business. It is understood that he is about to join a smaller firm.

James Finlay profits hit

JAMES FINLAY, the confectionery and plantations group, has warned shareholders that several factors had hit profits since the half-year results last September. These included bad weather in Kenya and Bangladesh, bad debts in the UK after large sales to Eastern Europe, much worse tea trading results in Mombasa, and considerable redundancy payments after major rationalisation in the George Payne business and Finlay's merchant banking arm. It is expected that the dividend will be maintained when final results for 1994 are published in May. The shares fell 12½p to 62½p.

AromaScan in red

AROMASCAN, which makes "electronic noses" for detecting odours, has commissioned research and development projects at a total cost of £790,000 since the company's flotation last August. Harold Morley, chairman, said the company was now well placed to exploit commercial applications for its technology. Losses of £819,000 for the half year to October 31 reflect costs incurred during the period in establishing an operational base. The loss per share was 40p. Offered at 100p each in August, the shares rose 1p to 89p yesterday.

Ulster estates for sale

TWENTY-EIGHT fully developed industrial estates totalling 1,100 acres and five stand-alone factories are to be sold by the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board at an auction in Belfast on March 23. The board has already sold the big Hydebank industrial estate on the edge of Belfast. In 1986 it owned more than 800 properties throughout the Province; after next month's sale it will have only about 50. Frank McCann, the board's deputy chief executive, said that the IDB would continue to provide land and factories for companies qualifying for its support.

Australian insurer sold

AUSTRALIA'S second-largest insurer passed into foreign control after 125 years when Axa, of France, bought 51 per cent of National Mutual Life Association of Australasia for A\$1 billion (£324 million) yesterday. National Mutual, an unlisted organisation owned by its policyholders, also announced that it would demutualise to become a company and list its shares on the Australian Stock Exchange within two years. Axa is one of the world's largest financial services groups, managing A\$330 billion of funds, against National Mutual's A\$32.2 billion. Axa operates in 15 countries.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver

LEASURES REPRODUCTIONS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 96 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that I, the undersigned, have been appointed Administrative Receiver of the above-named company, which is a limited company, on 18 January 1995.

Names of Administrative Receiver(s): Alan John Bennett, Anthony Victor Lucas
Office Address: 740, N.1 London Bridge, SE1 0QL

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Newsprint price warning

By ERIC REGULY

RUPERT MURDOCH, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, said yesterday that higher newsprint costs may force up cover prices.

Speaking at the Davos World Economic Forum in Switzerland, Mr Murdoch said the "economics of newspapers" had changed because newsprint prices had climbed by as much as 40 per cent in recent months.

"I believed that papers were too expensive in London, so I reduced the price," he said. "With the cost of paper going up now, and so on, that will probably have to be corrected to some extent."

However, no decisions had been made on price changes at News Corp, he said.

Newspaper shares were marked up. The Telegraph group closed at 359p, up 3p; United Newspapers gained 4p to 476p and Mirror Group rose 2½p to 124½p.

Separately, Mr Murdoch said that Europe's telephone monopolies should be dismantled to lower the cost of broadcasting transmission.

Nationwide defers life company

By ROBERT MILLER

NATIONWIDE Building Society has delayed the launch of a life and unit trust company for at least six months.

Britain's second-largest building society had hoped that the new life company would be ready for business this summer. The Nationwide's larger rival, the Halifax, launched its own life operation earlier this month. The Woolwich, the UK's third-largest society, launched a life company in 1990 and a unit trust subsidiary in 1991.

But Peter Richardson, divisional director of mortgages and insurance at the Nationwide, said: "The financial services marketplace has been changing quite dramatically over the past few months and, in planning the best way forward for Nationwide Life we have decided to opt for a conservative launch date of January 1, 1996." Until then Nationwide will continue to be linked to Guardian, formerly Guardian Royal Exchange.

Schroders will be the external fund managers for the new company's unitised life, pension, unit trust and personal equity plan business.

Former Leeds chief condemns merger

By ROBERT MILLER

A FORMER chief executive and past president of the Leeds Permanent Building Society has condemned the proposed £9 billion merger with the Halifax and urged members of both societies to vote against it.

Leonard Hyde, who was chief executive of the Leeds Permanent until 1978 and remained as a main board director until 1990, said yesterday: "I have written to a

number of MPs asking them to raise questions in Parliament about how it was that Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, nodded through the merger without referring it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission when he did not even know the bonuses which members would be entitled to."

As a result of Mr Hyde's letter, Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Calderdale, has written to Mr Heseltine asking him to explain the circumstances which led him to approve the Halifax-Leeds deal.

Mr Hyde added: "If the current board of Leeds Permanent no longer feel capable and able to run the society as an independent and vibrant organisation they should have said so, and not have so vehemently opposed the election of three people who sought to do so."

"If the Leeds Permanent and the Halifax have so much money to give away they should do so now by way of a bonus to investors and long-suffering borrowers and not indulge in a most expensive exercise which will ultimately destroy two very fine institutions."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.21	2.04
Austria Sch	17.86	16.38
Belgium F	32.42	48.12
Canada C	2.72	2.212
Cyprus Cyp	0.791	0.725
Denmark Kr	10.98	9.58
Finland Mk	8.08	7.45
France F	8.77	8.12
Germany D	2.56	2.54
Greece Dr	305.00	370.00
Hong Kong \$	12.98	11.98
India R	171.50	165.50
Italy L	2645.00	2490.00
Japan Y	165.50	155.50
Malta M	0.919	0.854
Netherlands G	2.68	2.60
Norway Kr	11.10	10.30
Portugal Esc	209.00	240.00
Spain P	16.00	15.00
Sweden Kr	12.45	11.65
Switzerland F	2.15	2.15
Turkey L	1.80	1.80
USA \$	1.82	1.82

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank Plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

0171-782 7344

□ Lloyds Bank would do well to buy in life minority □ Longhurst's charm offensive □ Oil keeps riding to the rescue

Whispers in the Abbey

ANOTHER day, another bank takeover tale. If half the stories that have rippled around the market in the past three weeks had been true, SG Warburg would have been taken over twice and sold its controlling stake in Mercury Asset Management. Kleinwort Benson would have been carved up by any number of continental banks (choose a name and tell a friend, but don't be short of the stock), and the TSB would have been likewise snaffled up by a rapacious French lender. All this tit-for-tat has come to nothing, but someone has made a lot of money from such stories.

Yesterday it was Lloyds' turn to be put on the rumour rack. This time, the source of the story was a well-argued research note from Michael Lever, the star banking analyst from Nomura, which reckoned that Lloyds was on the point of buying in the minority stake in Lloyds Abbey Life, its 67 per cent-owned life assurance and estate agency subsidiary, and funding it with a rights issue.

This did wonders for Lloyds Abbey's share price but created all sorts of ulcers on Lombard Street. If the chaps at Lloyds were about to pay 440p a share for Lloyds Abbey, it was news to them. Lloyds has the small matter of a £1.8 billion bid for the Cheltenham & Gloucester to

complete. Sir Brian Pimman, Lloyds' chief executive, has guru status in the banking industry, but two simultaneous billion pound takeovers may be a bit much even for him. Besides, he has an pathological hatred of rights issues and he would contradict hundreds of homilies on shareholder value if he passed the hat round shareholders now.

So any shareholders in Lloyds Abbey who expect an offer document to drop through their letter box tomorrow may be disappointed. But this does not make the deal a bad idea. Other banks, like the TSB, are busy combining their banking and life assurance sales forces since the two business are really only alternatives for the willing saver. But Lloyds is prevented from this because of Lloyds Abbey's separate identity. In addition, Lloyds is subsidising its part-owned offshoot by charging a fraction of the standard commission rate on sales made through its branches.

In the past, Lloyds has been prevented from considering such a mop-up move because the minority was simply too expensive. But the disregard the life

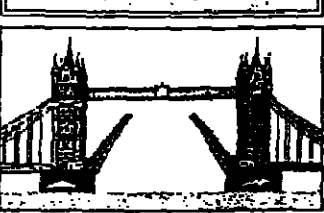
industry has fallen into, combined with Lloyds Abbey's profit warning earlier this month, has reduced the share price to its lowest point relative to the market since its merger with Lloyds in 1989. A £1.1 billion offer is not beyond Lloyds' reach, particularly if it is allowed to rebuild its capital for a time following the C&G acquisition.

While the Lloyds Abbey bid is the latest in an entertaining series of takeover tales from the Square Mile, it should not be dismissed out of hand. It may not happen tomorrow, but it is certainly on Sir Brian's 'things to do' list.

Cheltenham spars with borrowers

TAKEOVER talk aside, Lloyds' real target is tying itself in knots to be nice to its customers. Until April last year, when the Cheltenham & Gloucester surprised everyone by announcing its proposed marriage with Lloyds, it was generally regarded as a pace-setter in the building society movement.

PENNINGTON



It freed itself from the endowment mortgage straitjacket. It abandoned valuation and mortgage application fees. It was a trailblazer for postal savings accounts. And it was one of the first to introduce cashback deals for mortgage borrowers. Its expense ratio was the envy of its peers. Andrew Longhurst, C&G's chief executive, was regarded as the very model of a modern major general.

Now in an attempt to pacify hundreds of thousands of very unhappy borrowers, none of whom will benefit from the bonus payout from Lloyds Bank, but whose votes are crucial if the wedding is to go ahead, Mr Longhurst is setting out on a charm offensive. And it will need

all of its undoubted smoothness if he is to climb back into his customers' good books.

Yesterday's mortgage price promise contained all the hallmarks of Mr Longhurst's undoubted marketing ability. But the C&G has always been a price leader in the highly cut-throat mortgage market. So the promise is an old product in new packaging. It may attract new customers but it will do little to mollify existing borrowers who would prefer a share of Lloyds' £1.8 billion largesse.

Undoubtedly, C&G has been let down by the advice of its well-paid legal battalion, who believed the takeover in its original and more generous form could be rammed through the courts at high speed. But its own arrogance has earned it the deep hostility of once loyal customers. This is not the happy ship Lloyds thought it was buying.

Promising to keep its mortgage rate at 0.25 per cent below that of its major rivals for the rest of the year, just long enough to tie the knot with Lloyds, is an inadequate gesture in the face of such antipathy. It does nothing

to address the real grievances of existing borrowers and few new borrowers pay the prevailing standard mortgage rate.

Oiling the economy's wheels

OIL is always coming to the rescue of Britain but, like the US cavalry in the final reel, it tends to be late and always costs too much. The North Sea oil industry never ceases to push back forecasts of its decline and last year oil production reached record levels thanks to the co-incidence of Nelson and East Brae reaching peak levels while ten new fields came on stream.

Unfortunately, frantic activity on the UK continental shelf did not coincide with peaking oil prices. In contrary fashion, the price slumped to less than \$13 at the beginning of 1994 and only managed an average of less than \$16 throughout the year.

But the industry plays a useful role in avoiding embarrassing deficits in the current account and contributed 0.6 per cent to last year's 4 per cent rise in GDP.

So useful are the oil revenues that the Government is desperate to push back the North Sea horizon as far as possible. That poses a potential problem as new fields, like West of Shetlands, are technically difficult and low oil prices are squeezing margins. Recently, the oil industry's cavalry has been clever: it has found out how to bring oil ashore at less cost, helping to keep a steady income stream for the exchequer.

Elsewhere, governments are even more desperate for cash and leaner oil companies are being enticed into the Gulf with the prospect of cheaper production in new areas of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. World oil supply is rising and prices are on a downward trend, all of which will make the economics of the wider UK oil provinces more risky.

Under-exposed

A STUDY by Professor Len Skerratt of Manchester University, published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, finds that a third of FT-SE 100 companies do not reveal their foreign currency exposure. Less than half show the size and currency of debt, and 7 per cent do not value their properties. Professor Skerratt finds it all "very odd indeed", as should any inquisitive investor.

GM cruises to record results as sales soar

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

GENERAL MOTORS made \$17 million every day between October and December, which drove the world's biggest car maker to a better-than-expected fourth quarter and record annual results.

The company reported earnings of \$1.6 billion for the three-month period to the end of 1994, compared with \$1.2 billion in the 1993 quarter, and full-year profits of \$4.9 billion against \$2.5 billion in 1993.

GM said that its key North American car and truck operations were back in profit for the first time since 1989, and promised to send employees profit-sharing cheques for the first time in four years.

The company plans to buy back up to 15 million shares of its common stock to reward to employees through their stock benefit plans. For the October to December quarter, the company's income rose to \$1.74 per share, from \$1.28 per share in 1993. For the year, earnings per share came to \$5.15, up from \$2.13.

GM said its earnings would have totalled \$5.7 billion if there had not been a \$758 million charge for an accounting change.

"These record results reflect strong performance by all of the GM business sectors," said John Smith, the firm's president and chief executive.

"It is particularly significant to note that GM's North American Operations reported a calendar-year profit for the first time in five years."

The division posted a profit of \$690 million in 1994 in contrast to a 1993 loss of \$872 million. North American Operations accounts for about 60 per cent of GM's revenues; the division ran up losses of almost \$15 billion between 1991 and 1993.

Profits from GM's international operations were \$1.6 billion, up from \$1.1 billion a year ago, after strong performances in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America. Mr Smith said. The company's finance, computer services and defence-electronics subsidiaries combined for profits of about \$2.7 billion, he added.

GM's revenue totalled \$155 billion in 1994, an increase of 12 per cent on 1993's total of \$138 billion. Fourth-quarter revenue reached \$42.5 billion, compared with \$37.2 billion in the 1993 period.

All of the so-called Big Three US carmakers have seen a sharp increase in domestic demand as consumer confidence returns. Two weeks ago, Chrysler reported its most profitable year ever, and analysts expect strong results from Ford today.



John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, said the Penny Market stores had been hit by fierce price competition

Budgens takes axe to discount chain

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

INTENSE competition in the discount sector has forced Budgens, the supermarket group, to axe its chain of discount stores after less than two years of trading.

John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, said that the Penny Market stores had been hit by fierce price competition and significantly increased costs of acquiring sites. As a result, the chain incurred heavy operating losses.

Mr von Spreckelsen said price competition in the sector had intensified, with the cheapest top 100 discount products now selling at 10 per cent below last year's price. He said: "It cost us 13p to buy a can of baked beans, and we were selling them for 7p. Others were selling them for 4p. It was a recipe for disaster."

Five of the 12 Penny Market stores are to be sold for £25

million in cash to Lidl, the German discount retailer that recently entered the British market. The remainder will be converted to the Budgens format. The group has set aside £1 million to cover the costs of restructuring the chain. It comes on top of £4 million of operating losses and conversion costs accumulated over the past two years.

The development raises doubts on the future relationship between the company and the Rewe Group, the German discount operator that is Budgens' biggest shareholder and has long been tipped as a possible buyer of the group.

The Penny Market debacle depressed interim pre-tax profits, which fell to £881,000 from £3.05 million in the 28 weeks to November 13. The interim dividend is held at 0.3p and will be paid on April 13.

Trafalgar House extends offer date

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the engineering to shipping conglomerate, has extended its £1.2 billion offer for Northern Electric until February 13, having gained acceptance from 4.85 per cent of shareholders by the first closing date.

Trafalgar's advisers hailed the total as a record for the first closing date of a hostile bid, while Northern described it as "a very low level of acceptance".

Within the 4.85 per cent is 0.1 per cent held by parties

deemed to be acting in concert with Trafalgar, thought to be Robert Fleming, advisers to Hongkong Land, a substantial shareholder. The bid is currently under consideration by the Office of Fair Trading for a possible reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Under the code governing City takeover bids, if there is no decision from the OFT by February 17, the 39th day of the bid, the offer can be put on hold until an announcement is made.

Free calls at Mercury boost sales but not market share

BY ERIC REGULY

MERCURY One-2-One, the mobile phone network owned by Mercury Communications and US West, yesterday said that its Christmas free-call campaign boosted sales but fell short of expanding its market share.

The company also hinted that it may change its prices this year, including its policy of offering free local calls after 11pm and at weekends. "I would certainly anticipate some changes in our service in 1995," said Alan Harper, director of business strategy.

One-2-One may curtail the number of hours eligible for free calls, or change the balance between call charges and standing charges. However, should a price war break out

among the four mobile phone networks, "there would be more incentive to keep free calls," said Mr Harper.

One-2-One finished the year with 205,000 subscribers, up 46 per cent from the 140,000 it had at the end of September. The figure gives One-2-One 6 per cent of the whole market and 17 per cent of the market in London and the West Midlands, the regions it covers.

One-2-One launched its free call promotion on November 8. Anyone who bought a One-2-One phone between then and December 24 was eligible to make an unlimited number of domestic and international calls on Christmas Day.

The promotion was a public relations fiasco because over-

loaded circuits prevented many calls from getting through.

Of the 60,000 customers who were eligible for the Christmas free-call promotion, 3,000, or 5 per cent, complained. They have received compensation payments ranging from £15 to £30. In some cases, One-2-One bought back the phones, which sell for about £200. The total compensation costs were less than £100,000.

Veolia, the diversified German energy group that last week unveiled a strategic telecommunications alliance with Cable & Wireless, Mercury's parent company, enjoyed a 66 per cent surge in pre-tax profit last year to DM2.5 billion.

Kuwait bank to securitise £100m loans

UNITED BANK of Kuwait is to securitise £100 million of property loans to provide further funds for expanding its UK real estate lending business (Carl Morishid writes).

The issue, planned for mid-February, is being packaged by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank that launched the first commercial mortgage securitisation in the London market, last December, issuing £150 million of notes for Bristol & West Building Society.

UBK expects to raise £100 million from a package of loans made by the bank and secured on 38 properties. The aim of such transactions is to secure triple-A credit ratings for the main tranche of notes, thereby enabling the bank to refinance the loans cheaply.

Sumray family sells entire stake in FII

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in FII Group jumped 38p to 323p after Monty Sumray, chairman and managing director, sold his entire family interest in the shoe manufacturer that supplies Marks & Spencer to an investor group led by Charles Ryder. The 11.7 per cent holding was sold at 315p a share.

Mr Ryder, 41, will become FII's new chief executive. The former merchant banker was previously chief executive of Magellan Industries, a leading designer and manufacturer of clothing for Marks

& Spencer. He led a management buy-in to Magellan, then known as Cestion Industries, in October 1988, and became chief executive. He focused the business on lingerie and swimwear for M&S and the company was acquired by Claremont Garments last April. He became joint managing director of Claremont and will stay on as a non-executive director.

Mr Sumray, who has spent 30 years with FII, will remain as chairman on a part-time basis, but retires at the end of May. His family stake being sold is worth £5.54 million. Two other long-

serving directors will also be leaving the company and two non-executive directors will join. The changes accompany a rise in pre-tax profits to £1 million in the six months to November 30 (£551,000). Turnover fell to £38.8 million (£42.2 million), mainly reflecting a near £3 million increase in stocks of finished goods held against customers' firm orders but awaiting delivery instructions.

Cash balances stood at £9.1 million. Earnings rose to 4.4p (2.2p) a share. The interim dividend is held at 6p, with payment due on May 5.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares stay steady in a day of mixed fortunes



Harry Lambert's Adscene rose 3p on good news

INTEREST remained steady for the agenda for investors as they braced themselves for the possibility of further increases later this week. It was an encouraging performance by both equities and gilts after receiving crumbs of comfort from Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, who indicated that he thought the economy had peaked, although he also hinted that the retail price index was set to rise sharply from 2.9 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

Institutional investors were fixed firmly on the sidelines, anxiously monitoring the start of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting which is expected to signal a rise in US prime rates.

As a result, prices traded in narrow limits for much of the day before recovering earlier losses as the dollar rallied on the decision of President Clinton not to seek congressional approval for the Mexico aid package. The FT-SE 100 index, down more than 12 points at one stage, ended just 4.3 lower at 2,991.6 with financial futures holding on at the 3,000 level.

The sparks were flying at Lloyds Bank's Cornhill head office after it was forced to deny claims that it intends to bid for a share for the remaining 37 per cent of Lloyds AbbeyLife, the life assurance company it does not own. Nomura, the Japanese securities house, claims Lloyds is ready to launch a one-for-nine rights issue at 475p to help finance the deal. Lloyds declined to comment on the contents of the note, but saw its shares touch 530p before ending the day 7p off at 537p. Lloyds AbbeyLife responded to the speculation with a leap of 31p to 359p.

Northern Electric firmed 4p to 970p after again rejecting the terms of the £1.2 billion bid from Trafalgar House. The move came after Trafalgar decided to extend the terms after revealing it had received acceptances of less than 5 per cent. Northern wheeled shareholders' appetites by claiming it was examining further ways of enhancing their value in the company. Trafalgar marked time at 60p.

Lorho shed 2p to 152p after James Capel, the stockbroker, attempted to place a line of 10 million shares at 150p. By the close of business last night it was unclear if Capel had completed its task with turn-

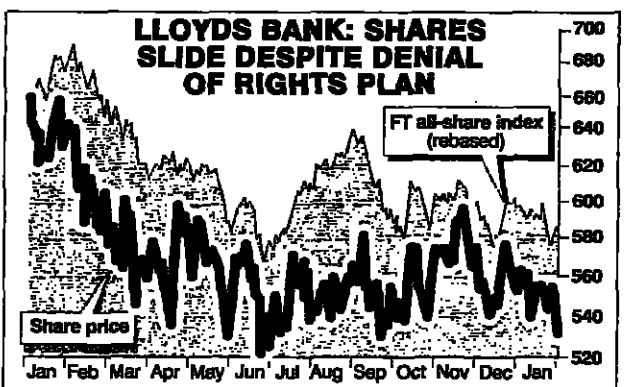
over in the shares reaching only 1.5 million. The seller is thought to be an institutional investor and the shares may still be around today.

There was also further speculation that Enterprise Oil is attempting to dispose of its remaining stake in Lasmo following its abortive £1.6 billion last year. A line of 1.5 million shares went through

Reckitt & Colman stood out with a rise of 3p to 625p with the help of a strong buy recommendation from Henderson Crosswhite, the broker. Henderson is impressed with its niche brand portfolio and worldwide distribution. Reckitt also has the second largest exposure to emerging markets among the top 100 companies.

The market at 10am at the 145p level along with a further 500,000 at the same price later in the day. By the close almost 4 million shares had been traded. Last week there was talk that the shares had been sold outside the market.

Lucas Industries recovered an early fall to finish at 184p after Strauss Turnbull, the stockbroker,



trading conditions had deteriorated since interim figures were published. It said that full-year figures would be hit and blamed poor weather in Kenya, which had hit crops, and low prices in Bangladesh.

A profits warning also left OMI International 6p down at 35p. The group said that trading profits for the full year would fall significantly short of City expectations. It attributed the setback to delays in shipments back in March last year at its Castlet division, which are likely to result in some projects not being completed before the year-end. Its manufacturing operations were performing broadly in line with expectations and the dividend would be maintained.

Budgens, the supermarket chain, has announced plans to axe its loss-making Penny Market discount chain after seeing group pre-tax profits in the first half slump from £3.05 million to £881,000. Five of the 12 stores will be sold to the German retailer Lidl, while the rest will be converted to the Budgens format. Penny Market has been badly hit by the supermarket price war, losing £1.4 million. The shares closed 2p softer at 24p.

GILF-EDGED: Gilts got off to a flying start on the back of those encouraging noises on the economy from Eddie George. This enabled the Bank of England to exhaust remaining supplies of its last Treasury Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2001, which it has had on its books since the end of November.

Prices were unable to maintain the blistering pace and closed below their best. The March series of the Long Gilt touched £102½ before ending the day £7½ better at £101½, as £2,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 advanced five ticks to 89½½, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 added ½ at 87½½.

NEW YORK: President Clinton's decision to use his own authority to provide Mexico with \$20 billion in US aid as part of the international support package provided the necessary spur for shares on Wall Street to rise and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 12.45 points at 3,844.53.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3844.53 (+12.45)
S&P Composite	470.30 (+1.69)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18649.82 (-103.06)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	Closed
Amsterdam:	
BOE index	408.11 (-3.74)
Sydney:	
ASX	1870.6 (-26.1)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2021.27 (-13.76)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	Closed
Brussels:	
General	7046.65 (-29.81)
Paris:	
CAC-40	7797.90 (-15.53)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	618.20 (-1.40)

London:	
FT 30	2260.7 (-2.4)
FT 100	2991.6 (-4.3)
FTSE Mid 250	3700.4 (+1.19)
FTSE Euro Stoxx 100	1297.31 (-7.08)
FT All-Share	1480.56 (-2.89)
FT Non Financials	1608.40 (-3.11)
FT Gold Mines	181.8 (-2.3)
FT Fixed Interest	109.57 (+0.03)
FT Govt Secs	91.33 (+0.05)
Bangkok:	
SET	1760.2
SEAC Volume	477.1m
USM (Dassam)	146.10 (Kamoi)
USM	1.5870 (-0.0035)
German Mark	2.406 (+0.0011)
Exchange Index	79.9 (Kamoi)
Bank of England official close (p.m.)	
LSECU	1.2675
Exchange Index	1.0770
RPI	146.0 Dec 12.9% Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mgmt Int'l (100)	99
Asset Mgmt Media Wts	5
Clydeport	155
First Russ Firs (\$10)	570
Grimme Micro Inds US	95
Grimme Micro Wts	39
Lazard Birta	52
Lazard Birta Wts	30
MCTT S Cap (35)	34
MCTT S Inc (35)	36
MICE Group (3)	3
Matheson Ltd IT (100)	81
Penix Oil	95
Telewest Comm (182)	171
Wellington Under (100)	102
Woodchester Us	125

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dares Estates n/p (4)	1
Hewitt n/p (68)	22
Verity n/p (74)	1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Lloyds Abbey	359p (+31p)
Airtours	439p (+8p)
Ramco Energy	279p (+13p)
Glaxo	619p (+8p)
Snapdragon	455p (+5p)
Wellcome	987p (+6p)
FALLS:	
Kleinwort Benson	599p (-10p)
SG Warburg	741p (-3p)
Argyll	273p (-7p)
BAA	445p (-15p)
Kingfisher	417p (-7p)
BPP	229p (-10p)
Geest	185p (-9p)
SGS	225p (-15p)
Wolsey	749p (-13p)
ICI	744p (-11p)
Zetters Group	116p (-5p)
Courtauld Text	425p (-3p)
Sharelink	159p (-3p)
Bowater	401p (-3p)
Sidlow	173p (-25p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Building up Courage

THE news yesterday that Whitbread is selling its Australian chain of pubs and restaurants, after failing to make much headway with their expansion over six years, suggests at least that head office has its attention on the Antipodes. The market is still waiting for Whitbread to announce the long-awaited purchase of all or part of Australian-owned Courage, while the company's share price suggests the City has already an assumed eventual deal in its opinion of the company.

The next trigger point should be the emergence of the latest set of figures from Foster's. Courage's parent, in a couple of weeks, if only because the Australians will be under pressure to make some statement on the British offshoot. The well-advanced sale of Kug's 16-strong chain in Australia will fetch less than £10 million but will prevent valuable manage-

ment time being spent out there, in preference to the 84 Keg sites in Canada which offer more scope for expansion. For now, Whitbread shares, on 13.8 times' earnings for the financial year starting in March, sell on a premium of 10 per cent or more to rivals such as Scottish & Newcastle, its renowned partner in the purchase of Courage.

Having lost out on the Chef & Brewer chain to S&N through an unwillingness to pay enough, Whitbread may be having trouble screwing up its act. Courage to meet the Australians' asking price, in spite of its financial firepower. The market hopes that Whitbread can repeat with Courage's John Smith brand what it has achieved with Boddingtons, but pending a firm indication that the deal is even under contemplation, this would be taking a fair bit out.

Rolls-Royce

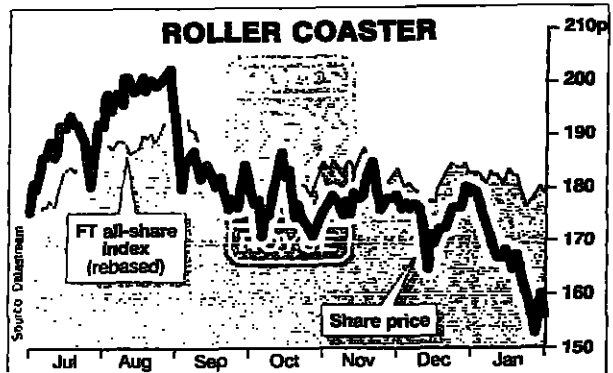
AFTER years of development and £500 million of investment, Rolls-Royce's new Trent engine has finally vaulted its last hurdle on the way to market. The Federal Aviation Authority yesterday certified the Trent 800, the larger of the two models, a week after it was proclaimed airworthy by the FAA's European counterpart, the Joint Aviation Authorities.

This was no mean feat by Rolls-Royce, which brought its certification programme forward by three months to steal a march on General Electric, whose own model is still awaiting approval. More significantly, the Trent 800 has been certified at 90,000lb of thrust, while its GE rival will be passed for only 84,000lb.

Unfortunately, such technical excellence is still not

materialising into market dominance. The Trent 800 has captured only 22 per cent of the available market on the Boeing 777 so far, since its extra thrust is, as yet, unfar better, but the competition with GE is fiercer. Rolls hopes that airlines will appreciate the strengths of the Trent more when it

goes into service with Cathay Pacific next month. However, Rolls shares have been uncharacteristically weak lately. That seems ironic, since Trent deliveries, and completion of the Allison acquisition, should make this the year that earnings finally begin to pick up. Having waited so long, investors seem to be losing interest.



Courtaulds

SHARES in Courtaulds have been looking decidedly anaemic lately, the main culprit was an institution unloading stock but analysts are worried that Courtaulds customers, in resisting price increases, are proving as tough as Tencel, the company's new super-fibre. Faced with higher costs from raw materials, the chemicals group has been trying to pass on some of the pain. Courtaulds hoped to push through price increases in the first quarter of 1995 but signals from the company suggest that it may be finding it hard to make them stick.

Surges in the cost of wood pulp, used to make viscose, and titanium dioxide which is used in paints, have hurt the company. But the principal culprit is acrylonitrile, a main ingredient to acrylic fibres, which almost doubled in price last year.

Courtaulds' difficulties show that consumer resis-

tance to price increases is passing far up the chain. Capacity reductions in the manufacture of raw materials, combined with increased demand have enabled producers to ratchet up prices but further down the chain, manufacturers are being squeezed. Sooner or later, companies like Courtaulds will be able to pass the costs on but any delay will hit margins and market forecasts of profits of £185 million in 1996 may be optimistic.

Games Workshop

THERE are some odd figures on the stock market, but none stranger than Zog the swarmer, Belch the three-armed swordsman of Gondar and other fantastic characters from the vaults of Games Workshop.

Games Workshop's business of selling lead and plastic models of dragons and wizards should not be dismissed as fantasy, however,

since it generates gross margins of 67 per cent. The company has a devoted following amongst teenage boys who will hoard their pocket money for weeks to buy the latest set of the Blood Moon Battalion of the Black Orc.

With 70 stores in Britain, Games Workshop has saturated the domestic market, but is proving that its products can be exported. It is busily converting the youth of France and Germany to the ways of fantasy war gaming. The placing last autumn has left it debt free, so it can afford the expansion from its own resources. Overseas expansion is risky for any smaller company, and Games Workshop's grip on the imagination of Britain's youth could slip at any stage. But barring mishaps, the company should make £6 million this year, putting the shares on a rating of 11, which is not expensive in spite of the risks.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
COCOA			
Mar	1007-1006	May	1057-1055
May	1008-1005	Jul	1067-1063
Jul	1018-1016	Sep	1077-1072
Sep	1027-1025	Dec	1089-1080
Dec	1035-1033		
Mar	1047-1043	Volume	4254
ROBUSTA COFFEE (FOB)			
Jan	2641-2640	Sep	2625-2641
Mar	2651-2650	Nov	2635-2651
May	2652-2651	Jan	2635-2625
Jul	2645-2637	Volume	3274
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)			
Wenters		Oct	354.0-52.5
Spor	403.5	Dec	360.0-48.5
Mar	392.0-5	Feb	360.0-5
May	391.5-40.5	May	364.0-40.0
Aug	382.5-79.0	Volume	1480
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 30			

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Report studies

... reports

COMPANY chairmen, grab your annual report and either go back to the drawing board, or take a bow. According to "The Company Report Report 1994-95", a survey of 100 of Europe's top companies, the British produced the best and the worst annual reports in Europe. The Report, edited by Peter Clifton of Peter Prowse Associates, puts Vodafone at the top with a score of 793 out of 1,000 and Great Universal Stores at a mere 71 points. By country, the Swiss lead the pack, and the Italians come in last. Keeping company with GUS in "feeble attempts to set out the corporate story" were Italian insurer Generali Assicurazioni (75 points) and British Airways (123). UBS's Nikolaus Senn gave the strongest chairman's statement — "few are as forward looking as this", the Report notes. Sir Colin Marshall's statement to BA shareholders is described as "ineffectual". Marks & Spencer, Hanson, GUS, GEC and BA, among others, made no use of charts, and ABN Amro needs to get out its camera — it made no use of photography at all.

No porkies

QUOTED group Cranswick, which makes pig feed, rears pigs and supplies supermarkets with pig products, has had a cracking start to the Chinese New Year. Chairman Jim Bloom sold 10 tons of Chinese-style spare ribs ahead of the celebration of the Year of the Pig — and that is no porky pig.

JAMES FINLAY TEAS



"I see a downturn in profits..."

Cheap rule

IF YOU have ever wanted to tell the Government how to save money, and can't afford to wait for the next General Election, here's your chance. The third Adam Smith Institute's "Economy in Government" competition, sponsored by Ernst & Young, kicks off on February 14. Last year, more than 400 entries were submitted, and various suggestions down the years have, I'm told, been taken on board by Whitehall, including the DIT £300 million. But there has been no take-up of the following: banknotes should carry advertising; put power-generating windmills on top of government buildings; a curfew on teenagers to reduce crime and vandalism.

Chosen few

JUST as the election of a Pope is only for Cardinals, so tomorrow's City seminar on the Alternative Investment Market is only for the chosen few. Embarrassed hosts of the talk-in about AIM have told the media that their invitations are withdrawn and they may not now put their backsides on seminar seats — at the insistence of the Stock Exchange. "It is either them [the Press] or us," the exchange has said... and so five high-back whicker chairs have been summarily removed from the conference hall.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Sun rises over Britain's growing exports to Japan

Joanna Pitman

says sales of UK cars and goods are being boosted by weak sterling

When Commodore Perry's Black Ships steamed into Japanese waters 140 years ago, their initial purpose was to obtain port facilities for American whalers in the Pacific. The second and more important purpose, pursued with furious intensity by the European powers that arrived soon afterwards, was to demand trading rights.

According to contemporary thought, a country that had cut itself off from the rest of the world (as Japan had for 250 years) was acting immorally, since it was reducing the world's wealth-creating potential.

The Japanese took the point and soon trade was flourishing. Today, foreigners have developed a new set of demands: save less, invest less, stop working so hard, eat foreign rice and oranges, stop chasing whales, increase military spending, be more like us, stand up to baddies like Saddam Hussein... but most important of all, do cut down those exports.

If there is one topic that springs to mind on the rare occasions the average Westerner thinks about Japan, it is probably trade friction — the seemingly interminable disputes that have led to unwelcome political cussedness from Japan and fury from everyone else. Japanese relations have been soured with Europe and America for at least 20 years over all manner of trade flows, from skis and Burberry brooches to machine tools, peanuts and satellites.

A special vocabulary has been created to keep up with the levels of acrimony: NTB (non-tariff barriers), targeting, SII (Strategic Impediments Initiative), level playing fields. Politicians have fumed, lobbyists have haggled, journalists have drawn comparisons with Pearl Harbor. Meanwhile, consumers have kept on buying Japanese goods.

America, whose trade deficit with Japan grew 15 per cent to \$26.2 billion in the first half of last year, has been thumping the table louder than most. So far, at least, the response has been less than overwhelming. In the latest round of bilateral trade negotiations earlier this month, one of the main arguments put forward by the Americans was that internationally competitive US companies would have greater success in Japan if its markets were truly open.

They cite sectors in which American companies have demonstrated success in other world markets but have failed to make significant inroads in Japan. Telecommunications equipment is one in which US manufacturers claim to be among the most competitive in the world and yet they find that in the Japanese market, particularly in the area of government procurement, they have been largely excluded along with other foreign makers.

The same goes for the medical equipment market. US manufacturers account for 40 per cent of the public



Michael Heseltine with Ryutaro Hashimoto, his Japanese counterpart, for discussions in Tokyo yesterday

and private market in the European Union, but less than half that in the Japanese market. Cars are another US gripe, not only because two thirds of the near-\$60 billion annual US trade deficit with Japan stems from vehicles and vehicle parts.

While the "results oriented" approach adopted by the Clinton Administration has failed to make any significant dent in America's spiralling bilateral trade imbalance, Britain's figures have recently turned comparatively rosy. And Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and a team of British business sharpshooters are in Tokyo this week charged with the fiendish task of exploiting the advantage and extracting new concessions, including an agreement to reduce tariffs on spirits.

Britain chalked up a \$310 million current account surplus in the first half of 1994 compared with a \$2.4 billion deficit at the same time in the previous year, according to the official monthly figures issued in Tokyo in December. Modest, but nevertheless respectable, considering Japan's reputation as a fortress closed to all but essential foreign imports.

Burberry raincoats, Earl Grey tea packaged by Fortnum & Mason and Wedgwood china — all considered essentials in Japanese households as status-imparting foreign gifts — have continued to flow east in large quantities. But the real boost has come from rather more substantial exports, including power generation equipment, automated components, medical and pharmaceutical products and cars.

The Rover group reports that 1994 was its best year for vehicle exports to

Japan, an increase of 35 per cent over 1993, bringing sales of 18,983 vehicles. More Minis are sold in Japan than in any other market, including Britain, but the greatest increase has been in the four-wheel drive category. Rover Japan has invested in expanding its dealer network in the past year, but the increased sales should in large part be attributed to exchange-rate fluctuations and a new "fair play" pricing policy that has allowed customers to receive the benefits of the strength of the yen against the pound.

The exchange rate is a more likely explanation for Britain's trade balance improvement than the recent phenomenon of Japanese reverse exports (of products made in UK subsidiary plants of Japanese companies). Nissan factories in Sunderland have recently begun exporting the five-door Nissan Primera to Japan, decorated with a Union Jack to appeal to Japan's Anglophiles, but sales have been tiny and would have had little impact on last year's UK-Japan trade figures.

British cars have benefited along with those from the rest of Europe, from a fashion current in Japan, said a senior official in the international trade bureau of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). "The perception among Japanese consumers is that European cars are good performers. They are also compact, good looking and appeal to a taste for European exclusivity. But prices have fallen since the yen strengthened and this must have made a huge difference."

According to the MITI official respon-

sible for UK-Japan trade relations, British exports have increased across the board, indicating a distortion due to the exchange rate. "Britain's departure from the EMS may have particularly affected British figures because the pound has been weakened against the yen more than other currencies still in the EMS," he said.

According to figures compiled by the Japan External Trade Organisation, a semi-governmental body, British car exports to Japan have increased from a value of £65.2 million in 1988 to £190.7 million in 1993. Equally significant for Britain's tiny new surplus has been the growth in exports of medical and pharmaceutical products. In 1988, Britain exported £94.7 million worth of goods in this sector; by 1993 this had grown to £241.1 million.

However, the Japanese market is far from conquered. While the view from Congress and the European Parliament is that there is something uniquely underhand and unfair about Japanese business practices, the exact problem is seldom spelt out.

The inference is of subsidies, dumping and trade barriers, although in strictly legal terms Japan's tariff rates and import restrictions are not as evil as perceived. For a number of reasons, including language and fierce domestic competition leading consumers to expect the highest standards of design, reliability and service, the Japanese market remains infernally difficult to crack. While the pot and kettle slanging match can be expected to go on with America, Japan's trade relations with Britain will continue to be relatively sunny in the short term — at least as long as the yen remains strong.

Toymakers sitting on death row

Inventors struggle in a market dominated by the big boys, says Victoria McKee

Think global or think small and focused is the message of this year's British International Toy and Hobby Fair.

In an increasingly global market, medium-sized independent manufacturers and retailers are being squeezed out by multinational groups, usually American or Japanese-based, such as Hasbro, Mattel, Bandai and Tomy, and — on the retail side — by names such as Woolworths and Toys 'R' Us.

Of the 101 new exhibitors at Olympia, London, this year, most know that their only hope of survival is to have their game or product bought out quickly by one of the big boys with marketing teams all over the world. Few will survive until their second Toy Fair. It is estimated to cost a minimum of £100,000 to get a game even to prototype stage.

Upstart, producer of The Really Nasty Horse Racing Game and, new this year, Ad Mad, a game about the TV advertising industry, is on its seventh fair. The Upstart partners, Tom White and

want it easy, and it's not easy for the mavericks like us.

"The easy route is to take your 5 per cent from Hasbro and walk away, but I don't want to sell my baby and I want to keep it British."

Board games seem to promise the easiest chance of entrance to the toy industry for newcomers, which is why there are so many new ones this year, often from redundant executives who have ploughed their remuneration into developing their dreams.

However, with even major businesses in the games market, such as Waddington, MB, Parker and Spears, having sold out (to Hasbro and Mattel), how can the new entrepreneurs hope to assure retailers of the multi-million pound television campaigns on which success apparently depends?

As Denis Horton, group managing director of Mattel, says, "There's a saying in the toy industry: How do you make a million? Spend three million!"

Salvian British survivors

The easy route is to take your 5 per cent and walk away

John Mariani, say of exhibiting: "They call it Death Row, those little three-metre wide stands where most new companies began, because so few will be around next year. But if you've got a really good product and handle it right you can survive."

John Mott, too, is trying to hold out against the big boys — but it isn't easy. Mr Mott, an inventor based in Farnham, Surrey, and responsible for, among other things, the LA Gear trainers with flashing lights and carbon tennis racquets, has produced a new construction toy, Motik, to rival Lego. The problem is that the giant Hasbro corporation — which exhibits at its own separate show — is behind K'Nex, another new construction system fighting for the same market.

Mr Mott, despite having his product sold by Harrods, had to have an administration order on his company because of financial problems. "It cost £15,000 to get Motik to prototype stage, and £250,000 to create the set of tools to produce it," he explains. "And then all the big retailers say 'What is your TV spend?' They all

market niche and appealing to parents and the adult nostalgia market. Some success has been enjoyed also by emerging British companies, which scour the world for innovative ideas to bring to Britain on licence — such as the wildly successful Biker Mice.

Mr Horton, of Mattel, whose packaging now bears instructions in seven languages, says: "In some ways, the toy industry is like the car industry — a lot of products require a lot of tooling investment and a lot of risk, and that's where the global aspect is coming from. On the other hand, it's like the advertising industry, where there is a need for the small creative shops with the wacky ideas — and to produce toys featuring local characters like Thomas the Tank Engine and Postman Pat that the multinationals really aren't interested in."

"Global characters today really need to be TV or film-related. It isn't enough to have come from literature, except via Disney."

BUSINESS LETTERS

Greed of fat cats the reason for 'cost rationalisation'

From Mr Eric H. Chadwick Sir, How on earth can Graham Searjeant attempt to explain away massive pay rises to executives in privatised industries by saying it is the going rate for the job ("Nice work if you can get it", January 17)?

To say that the workrate and the resulting responsibility has increased justifies such amounts is to ignore the fact that many people at the bottom of the ladder, as Mr Searjeant puts it, have had their workload increased by a substantive amount without having their pay increased by even the smallest amount.

Others have had their jobs taken from them for no other reason than "cost rationalisation", the work they used to do thrust upon their harassed ex-colleagues and the wages they used to depend on to feed their families given to the top executives as a reward for sacking them.

When, as a teenaged apprentice working in a furniture factory, I asked the foreman for any favours, he would tell me that there were over a million unemployed who would take my job if I were not satisfied with my lot.

I would reply, quite truthfully, that he could only employ one of them at any one time. This is still true today, and to state that giving the same employee a huge increase in pay attracts able executives is best described by a good old-fashioned working-class expletive.

Only when the position is vacant would a pay increase attract someone to fill it as only one man can possibly be employed in a position at any one time.

So plainly, Mr Searjeant, it

is the greed of the fat cats at the top awarding themselves and their executive colleagues the money that is saved by halving the workforce, making the other half work twice as hard, and keeping the rest for themselves.

This, incidentally, is a formula that has been employed all over the country since May, 1979.

Yours faithfully, ERIC H. CHADWICK, 16 Maryfield Green, Crossgates, Leeds.

Ofwat's ruling on South West Water

From the Director-General, Ofwat Sir, Pennington (January 17) asserts that South West Water can point to industry efficiency tests that show it was hard done by, by Ofwat's rulings at the review of water prices.

The MMC will doubtless look at this. I contend that the methodology on efficiency was applied fairly and consistently to all companies.

Our decisions on efficiency savings, quite rightly, took into account information going beyond the scope of the

published econometric studies and reflected evidence on company performance since 1989.

Yours faithfully, IAN BYATT, Director-General, Office of Water Services (Ofwat), Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

More bad sums

From The Rev. S.H. Mayor Sir, Mr Michael White (Letters, January 14) is not the only person to find that British Gas has difficulty with its sums.

Some 11 weeks ago, I received a final notice on removal and refund of the balance of a payment made in advance. I replied immediately that I had not removed and had no intention of doing so, and returned the cheque.

The response was a further copy of the notice and another, much smaller, refund. I repeated my reply, again returning the cheque. There followed an estimated meter reading and a credit balance statement differing from both the previous ones.

British Gas's next approach was a demand that I should pay the balance outstanding, now converted from a credit to a debit balance. I replied in what I hope were clear and emphatic terms on December 7. My reply was acknowledged; that is all so far.

Should we raise a fund to buy British Gas a new abacus? Yours faithfully, S.H. MAYOR, 10 Sherlock Road, Cambridge.

ue in any form for the future. We will, however, continue to progress our writ in the absence of any meaningful dialogue with the present management of Lloyd's of London.

Yours faithfully, DAVID GREEN, Chairman, Litigation Subcommittee, Lloyd's Action Group For Restitution and Deposit Defence, PO Box 19, Pottersbury, Tewkesbury, Northamptonshire.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1 1995

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Dynamic West End Investment Bank is looking for 2 Corp. Finance secretaries. Outgoing, hardworking & professional you will have banking sector M & A experience and Windows knowledge. If you want a real career from your next job, call Lisa now!

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THE UK MAJOR PORTS GROUP - a trade association representing the seven major port enterprises in the UK - is seeking an experienced secretary to take up post from 24 April 1995 in its Holborn office.

The duties are varied: essential requirements are familiarity with Word for Windows, an ability to type accurately and swiftly from audio dictation and the maintenance of a filing system. Accurate recording of incoming mail and despatch of outgoing post (by fax or post). Under the direction of the Accountant, handling all bookkeeping and expenditure transactions.

A good telephone manner and ability to deal with a wide range of queries are important. The Executive Director is frequently abroad; the secretary must be able to take an initiative and work without supervision in responding to unexpected developments.

The posts calls for competence and experience of a high order.
For further details telephone: 071 404 2008

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An experienced secretary is required to work for the County and Club Development Manager.

The successful candidate will be involved in the administration of the county and club programme, the audit programme of county centres and the organisation of the annual County Officials Conference. Excellent administrative skills and experience of minute-taking, budget administration and using spreadsheets are essential.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to: Sarah Kellaway, Personnel Manager, The Lawn Tennis Association, The Queen's Club, London W14 9EG. Closing date for applications is 17th February 1995

For further details telephone: 071 404 2008

SECRETARY

The City Technology Colleges Trust is an educational charitable company limited by guarantee, part funded by the Department for Education. It is also the educational charity responsible for setting up Technology and Specialist Colleges.

The Trust is seeking to appoint a secretary to assist two directors on the Trust's curriculum development and affiliation scheme, technology colleges programme and publications.

Applications are sought from individuals with at least three years secretarial experience, preferably proficient in Word for Windows and PageMaker.

Salary from £14k + benefits according to age and experience.

Details of the post and application form are available from Yvonne Frow, CTC Trust, 9 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DD. Telephone 0171 839 9339.

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Fast, accurate keyboard and wordprocessing skills are needed (60wpm). Knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and/or Word required. Some shorthand would also be an advantage. Excellent written and spoken English and a good educational background, GCE Advanced Level or equivalent.

Salary £15,000 - £17,000. Interest-free travel loan, contributory pension scheme.

For further details please contact The Personnel Manager, RIPA International, 22 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EJ. Tel: 071-589 7138. Fax: 071-589 7140. Closing date for applications Monday 13 February 1995. (No Agencies).

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Working as an Administrator in the Human Resources Department within a prestigious city firm - you will be responsible for all the course administration, booking of accommodation and travel arrangements and providing basic secretarial support to the Training team. An assertive individual who likes dealing with people is essential along with some Windows experience and an eye for detail.

To hear about the above vacancies and the many other opportunities we have, please call us on - 071 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

£14,000 + benefits

Based in fabulous offices close to High street Kensington Tube. You will work as part of a young sociable team. Your duties will be varied but will include arranging diaries, meetings and travel as well as liaising with clients. You should have good skills and a bubbly, outgoing personality. 70 wpm typing and audio experience essential.

Keep up the Tradition! upto £20,000+ pens

Are you looking for a classic senior level secretarial role where your professionalism and experience will be fully appreciated? Look no further, we have the perfect position for you within an international investment management company in the City. Two of their top executives need someone to organise their private working lives, their roles are very different so adaptability will be the key to your success. Duties will include diary management, travel itineraries, constant telephone liaison, meeting and greeting clients. Wordperfect for Windows and Lotus 123 an advantage. 60 wpm typing. Age 23-35. Please call Sarah on 0171 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



Radio Days! £16,000 + 5 weeks hols!

Before you think yourself off to some sun-kissed beach for 5 weeks, do you have the skills needed for this job? We are looking for a young, lively secretary with 2-3 years' experience (50wpm typing) 90 shorthand preferred and a healthy appetite to work hard, play hard. In return you will be rewarded by working with a fun team of sociable managers providing full secretarial support, organising their diaries and travel arrangements. Age 24-30, good WPMs. Please call Charlotte on 0171 437 4032

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Conference Administrator £15,000

Exciting, fast moving publishing company seek a self-motivated and energetic individual to join their team of international conference administrators. From Europe to the Far East - you will be responsible for co-ordinating conferences world wide; liaise with speakers and delegates, arrange venues, sort out complex travel itineraries and much much more. You will need to be a proven organiser with relevant experience to cope with the constant pressure of working to tight deadlines. Knowledge of a European language an advantage. Computer literacy and typing skills essential. Age 20-30. Please call Sarah on 0171 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

KINGSWAY COLLEGE

College Secretary and Assistant to the Principal £22,137 - £23,313 pa inc

Kingsway is a diverse, multi-cultural college in Central London with centres in the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington. It offers a wide range of vocational and other learning programmes to young people and adults.

This post comprises two roles - clerk to the college governing body and assistant to the Principal. Reporting directly to the Principal you will be responsible for the efficient operation of her office and for the smooth running of the Governing Body.

You will be educated to degree level and have some legal training or a developed interest in law. You will also have an informed interest in the purposes and functions of further education, possess excellent oral and written communication skills, have confident computing skills, and enjoy making decisions and acting on your own initiative.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Personnel Services, Kingsway College, Grays Inn Centre, Sidmouth Street, London WC1H 8BJ. Telephone: 0171-306 5713 (24 hour answerphone). Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 17th February 1995.

Please quote reference TP29.

Kingsway College Further Education Corporation
is an equal opportunities employer

Samsung Electronics, the 14th largest company in the world, are moving their European Headquarters from Germany to the UK as part of their global investment programme.

As a result of this, there are exciting opportunities to join this fast-growing organisation in an executive secretarial role supporting the Directors who will be heading up the operation.

PA/SENIOR SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

To provide high level support to the Managing Director of European Headquarters and ensure the smooth running of the office. Normal secretarial skills with shorthand plus German and/or French required. You are probably already working at executive level for a large organisation.

DIRECTOR LEVEL SENIOR SECRETARIES/PAs

There are vacancies to support the Managing Director of the UK Sales and Marketing Division and several other senior executives. All require top level abilities and skills.

If you are aged 27-38 and looking for a new exciting opportunity, excellent benefits and salary, and live within travelling distance of Surbiton, Surrey, then please contact our consultants:

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Fax: 0181-943 9522

SAMSUNG

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Applications invited from suitably presented candidates with an excellent education and secretarial qualifications, for the post of secretary to our Chairman.

You will be responsible for providing a full secretarial service to the Chairman, including the arrangement of corporate hospitality and administrative support for a charitable Trust. You should have at least 5 years secretarial experience at director level, must display a strong organisational ability, and have excellent written and oral communication skills. A comprehensive knowledge of Wordperfect (DOS) is essential.

MLG will fulfil the above criteria and are looking to work in a substantial property investment company quoted in the Stock Exchange, we can offer you:

- £20,000 pa basic salary
- 24 days holiday pa, 1957L
- Non contributory pension scheme
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Please send your CV to:

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(No agencies or unsolicited phone)

Merton Associates

Executive Search Consultants

PA/SECRETARY £20,000

Merton Associates is one of the UK's leading Executive Search Consultants. Our Partners headhunt director level people on behalf of a wide range of blue chip clients. We are seeking a PA for our Financial Services team.

PA's have important and demanding roles, being involved in every facet of each search. They must have first class secretarial skills including fast accurate word processing (Word for Windows), be extremely organised and be able to handle the detail of a number of projects at the same time. They must have the confidence, tact and personality to deal with senior executives both as clients and as candidates.

Please reply, enclosing full CV, to Linda Barr, Merton Associates, Merton House, 70 Grafton Way, London W1P 5LE, or by fax on 0171 387 5324.

APPLEMAC SEC

to £22,000

+ paid o/h + expenses

(free to travel)

Advanced AppleMac skills MS Word/Excel/PowerPoint/Office Manager. London/UK based.

Budget management, international relocations, team co-ordinator. 'A' level/Grad. 28-35 yrs.

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SIMPLY THE BEST

£16,000 p/a

Exceptional Perks

Top American Co seek 19-23

yr old exec to assist young

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£20,000 + package

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The world's leader in international management consultancy

requires the skills of a highly driven, self-motivated secretary who

has the stamina and enthusiasm to work alongside this demanding

global player.

In this stimulating role you will have the opportunity to travel, liaise with high profile clients, arrange corporate hospitality, and prepare a wide range of correspondence and travel itineraries. If you have three years' experience and 50wpm+, please call us now. For further details please contact Angela Mortimer plc (Rec Cons), Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed. Call on 0171 726 8491.

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Assurance, with

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to maintain a

strong customer

focus and

competitive edge.

PA to Divisional Director Production

c.£16,500 Chiswick

The Production Directorate is responsible for the editing, publishing and distribution of our standards. The job of PA to the Production Director is therefore both varied and demanding.

Often applying your own initiative to decide priorities and provide solutions before they are requested, you will give all-round administrative and secretarial support, ensuring the office runs smoothly. This will include dealing with correspondence, managing diaries, and analysing and summarising information.

Well organised and capable of working effectively under pressure, you must understand the changing needs of our business and its more technical aspects. You must have shorthand and audio typing skills (approximately 55wpm), and ideally experience of Microsoft Word.

If, as well, you have a friendly personality, are self-motivated and can demonstrate the methodical approach on which the work of this department depends, you will enjoy competitive rewards.

To apply, please send your CV to Christine Kenning, Human Resources Officer, BSI, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL.



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Small friendly office of an imp/exp co. needs

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Experienced & highly organised individual

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RECEPTIONIST

An opportunity exists for an energetic and self-motivated receptionist to join an expanding Recruitment Consultancy specialising in Social Care.

You must be of professional appearance and manner, and enjoy undertaking a variety of tasks including switchboard, typing and administration.

In return, we offer an excellent benefits package, including £12 - 14 000 basic salary. Please send CV to: Amanda Bedford, Relevance Human Resources Limited, 18 John Street, London WC1N 2DL

Executive Secretary

for US multi-national European HQ - Surrey

SC Johnson is a US multi-national with European Headquarters located in Egham, Surrey. Applications are now invited for the position of Executive Secretary to join the 'Eurocentre' team, which supports, in conjunction with other European Executive Secretaries, the European functional groups.

Applicants should have excellent organisational and secretarial skills with sound experience of Windows applications, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. A high level of commitment with a fully flexible working schedule is required, in order to support senior European executives who constantly travel. In order to expand the position to its full potential, there must be a willingness to undertake new projects and assignments which will require personal initiative and research, plus a desire to progress within the company through training and personal study. A second language would be an advantage but not essential.

The successful applicant will receive a competitive salary, annual profit-sharing, subsidised private medical and dental care, non-contributory pension and life-assurance.

Applications with full CV and details of current salary should be sent by mail to: Mrs. Joan Humphrys, SC Johnson Wex Limited, Milton Park, Stroud Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 9UH. Closing date for applications is 15th February 1995.



Ashley Stewart Ltd

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT/P.A. - £18,700

Ashley Stewart Ltd are recruiting for The London Institute, the World's Largest Educational Institution for Art & Design based in the West End. They are seeking a flexible and resourceful Communications Assistant/PA to work in the Corporate Marketing office. This varied role involves assisting the Company's Managing Director with all aspects of corporate communications as well as running the Gallery, organising private viewings, PR. An ability to liaise with students and staff at all levels. Suit a methodical, flexible and friendly communications with a knowledge and sympathy for the visual arts. VP Skills needed.

Please call Ashley Stewart Ltd (Rec Cons) Tel: 071 580 9103 or Fax: 071 323 3149

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST.

Small friendly office in elegantly refurbished building near the Barbican. Good conditions of service, 2 days leave, season ticket loan, Word for Windows and audio an advantage. Development opportunities for the right person. Salary negotiable.

Apply writing to: The Executive Secretary, Royal Statistical Society, 12 Enrol Street, London EC1Y 8LX

WRITE YOUR OWN JOB TITLE

We've started 1995 with a complete reorganisation of how we run our business. It's an exciting time and we're looking for someone who is bright and efficient to join us - it'll be up to you to decide what job title you want. If you're looking for routine stop reading here, but if you want to feel you're really playing your part in an active team then write and let us know what you can do. For starters you should be an experienced w/p operator and have all those important basic admin skills, but if you also have a sense of the visual and a gift for organising then you could enjoy life here a lot. There's an attractive salary and stacks of interest for the right person. Written applications only to Box No 3385

MARKETPLACE APPOINTMENTS

The following permanent vacancies are based in London and require a Pharmaceutical or Medical background.

MULTI-LINGUAL PA to CHAIRMAN £30K++ 20% Typing 80% Organising - German, French & Japanese essential. Dynamic, precise, numerate.

BI-LINGUAL PA to M.D. £25K++ "Old school" secretary with shorthand, superb typing skills & French language.

BI/TRI - LINGUAL MARKETING SEC £15K+ French essential, Spanish & Japanese preferable. High volume of typing & good shorthand skills for two bosses.

SALES ADMINISTRATOR £15,000 80% Sales Admin. taking orders etc, 20% Typing/VDU. European language preferable but not essential.

MEDICAL RESEARCH TEAM - PA SECRETARY/RESEARCHER Research assistant & departmental secretary with in-depth medical knowledge & European languages required. Salaries depend on experience & knowledge - but will be above average for the industry.

We also have an extensive selection of general PA/Secretarial vacancies in London and Hertfordshire, a sample of which are listed below.

ASSISTANT to MD - International Co-ord/Admin £17,000.

EXECUTIVE CO-ORDINATOR - Shorthand Desirable/Excellent organisational skills £16,000.

PERSONNEL ASST - Admin 50%/Personnel 30%/Secretarial 20% £16-17,000.

In Confidence contact Diane Green
First Floor, 14 The Parade,
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Tel: 0923 243000 Fax: 0923 244697

Enjoy life in Paris and work as you go!

GR interim

is currently recruiting qualified secretaries, assistants and PAs for exciting and challenging positions at the international headquarters of many major Anglo-Saxon and French companies, law firms, advertising agencies, etc.

• Fluency French imperative

• Word Processing skills a must

• Help with lodging available

Please call Sarah Rogers for details on 010 33 1 42 61 82 11

or come direct to 12, rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris

DYNAMIC FIRM OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

with offices based in Bond Street require

motivated secretary with

typing speed of 80 wpm

Word for Windows/Word

Perfect.

Please fax c.v. to

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(Tel: 071 400 2656)

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Personnel Dept, Nina

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Highly capable and organised

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required for small, trendy,

home office. Needs to have

initiative, be flexible & able to

work well under pressure.

Must have shorthand (100+),

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photos to.

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SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

req'd by busy English Language

School in SW17, 18-25yrs. Must

speak some French. Duties inc.

A buyer's market for the confident

Is this the time to be looking for a new job or should you be staying put? A scan through recent advertisements in *Crème de la Crème* and questions to several recruitment consultancies suggest a healthy picture. There are even suggestions that we might be moving towards a buyer's market — the buyer being you this time.

The new year has had a good start with many vacancies. There is considerable movement — some due to company growth, some to promotion and some to secretaries ready for a change and looking for a job at the same level but with a different employer. People who were hanging on to their jobs are now ready to risk change. Whatever the reason, there is a snowball effect.

Companies in many sectors are growing and in some cases creating new jobs. Financial services, as ever, are a healthy source of employment. Comments from consultancies over City vacancies range from "perky" to "really, really busy" and "ballistic". Banking is "confident". Many executive

Feeling restless? Beryl Dixon asks the consultants and scans the advertisements to see whether now is the time to seek fresh horizons

search consultancies (or head-hunters) are advertising secretarial positions — a sign that executives, too, are on the move.

The media is always popular and while it remains intensely competitive, the jobs are reappearing from college leaver to senior level. Advertising and public relations agencies are the last to emerge from recession. Their business depends on the economic health of their own clients. Signs that blue-chip companies are expanding their advertising budgets are there — meaning good news for the media consultancies. Even property is a little better with employers now recruiting additional staff.

There are jobs again in publishing, "marking an end" one consultancy says, "to the job losses of recent years". Leisure has seen some cutbacks. Manufacturing re-

mains steady, with new jobs in some companies matching cutbacks in others. Even this is an improvement on the situation of the past few years when job losses were heavy.

The message is that there are jobs in all sectors — if you look hard enough. Whereas it would still be unwise to assume that any job is there for the asking, you can afford to be cautiously positive if you feel like a change and can start sounding out the market.

What about salaries? While companies may be expecting growth, they are also looking to control pay costs. The jobs that show the highest increases in salary over the past year are those for very senior secretaries working for chairmen, chief executives and managing directors — an indication that employers are willing to pay for the best at that level.

When analysed by employment sector, salaries, on average, are slightly up in publishing, manufacturing and computing while many employers in commerce, charities and television/film are offering jobs at slightly lower salaries than last year.

As always, figures do not tell the whole story. For example, salaries have fallen in some management consultancies and financial services firms but jobs in those sectors bring the highest overall salaries.

Advertising salaries are up but secretaries in some companies are among the lowest paid of secretaries. There is an increased trend towards bonus payments. The obvious reason for this is that they are discretionary and can be awarded or not according to profitability. Perks, too, are worth examining. They can increase the true value of a salary by hundreds of pounds. Those most commonly offered are in descending order: season ticket loans, pension schemes and health/life insurance, followed by subsidised or paid lunches.



On her return from Paris, Lizzie Would had several interviews and was able to choose the job she particularly liked

JUST THE JOB FOR ME

LIZZIE WOULD has been in her new job with Alderwick Peachell, an executive search consultancy, for a matter of weeks. She returned to England in the new year from Paris where she had been working at the British Embassy. She was rather wary of the job market here and unsure of what to expect.

With the possibility of Foreign Office cuts looming, Ms Would decided to return to the UK before it became too difficult for her to move into

another field. "There is not much demand generally for knowledge of nationality law," she says, so she came back to job-hunt, afraid that it might prove difficult. In fact, she experienced no problems and was able to attend several interviews before finding a job she liked.

"I love it here. There is a team atmosphere and lots of telephone work — both of

which I am accustomed to. It's also a very young office which I like and I thrive under pressure. I work directly for one of the consultants who does the searches and plans how to find the executives clients are looking for. I have worked on a wide range of assignments already, to locate engineers, brand managers for food companies and European business analysts. I have

a great deal of client contact since I make all the interview arrangements."

Ms Would feels the job situation is satisfactory — "nowhere near as bleak as I had been warned. Several friends, also looking to change jobs, have been successful recently. At first I felt I should look for a position that would use my French but I soon decided that as I have French friends, I would be able to maintain my fluency outside work."

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FAX:
071 782 7828

City Consulting Firm Seeks

Team P.A.

£20,000+

An entrepreneurial City-based consulting firm, we seek a PA/Team Secretary to help provide the consistently high standard of service that our clients require. This is a challenging role for a quick-thinking team player and will involve extensive client contact.

You will be able to demonstrate:

- Initiative, diplomacy and a level-headed disposition in a demanding environment.
- The ability to work efficiently to deadlines.
- Good WP skills, computer literacy and the ability to implement new systems.
- Excellent PA, secretarial and organizational skills.
- A professional appearance and attitude.
- Good communication skills to deal with both colleagues and clients.

You will be in your mid to late twenties and of graduate calibre. Your enthusiasm and flexibility will enable you to make a real contribution to this dynamic and successful organization.

To apply, please send or fax your CV, quoting reference number 335, to Joanna Godley, 76 Watling Street, London EC4M 9B1. (Tel: 0171-248 3653 Fax: 0171-248 2814)

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Top International Plc

£14,000 + benefits

Are you looking for your second job and have at least 12 months secretarial experience? Give your career a kick start by working alongside a senior PA and helping to organize an Executive Chairman. Your day could be filled with organising international travel & accommodation, liaising with senior managers world-wide and taking charge of the office in the PA's absence. If you have 80 wpm shorthand, 50 wpm typing and want to learn from the best - call now!

PA TO PRESIDENT/CEO

£25,000 + banking benefits

Do you have at least 10 years solid PA experience, preferably in either a financial or diplomatic environment? This is a fully involved 1:1 role which incorporates liaising with offices in Bahrain and New York. If you think that you're the best and can prove it - call for more information.

HUGE SECRETARIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Docklands - £18,000 - £20,000

+ exceptional banking benefits

Top investment bank is looking to increase its support structure with highly professional secretaries in a variety of dynamic departments. If you are flexible on overtime, have good working knowledge of Word for Windows & Excel, 50 wpm typing with good shorthand being an advantage, call to see what we can tempt you with!

TRADING FLOOR BUZZ

Package £25,000

Leading investment house is looking to recruit top team secretary who could keep up with the pace of a busy trading floor. You will be looking after 8 executive traders doing their diaries, travel, expenses and preparing presentations. Minimum 60 wpm typing, knowledge of Word for Windows & Excel and 3 years solid secretarial experience.

CALLING ALL TEMPORARY SECRETARIES!

Are You Available Immediately?

Young Secretary

The trading floor of this dynamic investment bank needs a switched on secretary to juggle the demands of this frantic environment.

Knowledge of Word for Windows & Excel, 50 wpm typing are essential with shorthand being an advantage.

1:1 Secretary £20,000 + Lots OT + banking benefits

Do you live less than 40 miles from the Docklands, have Word for Windows & Excel and are happy with long hours?

TRAFFIC DIRECTOR FOR LONDON

SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Salary range £17,776 to £22,835 per annum including Recruitment & Retention Allowance

The Traffic Director for London is the organisation which has been charged with the responsibility of implementing the Priority "Red Route" Network throughout London.

A Senior Personal Assistant is required to carry out secretarial duties and generally assist the Traffic Director. In addition, the post carries supervisory responsibilities for the provision of effective secretarial services for the organisation and previous supervisory experience would be an advantage.

Applicants must be skilled in the use of WordPerfect 5.1 (preferably using Windows on a personal computer), able to use audio equipment and capable of taking and producing minutes of meetings. Shorthand is desirable but not essential. The job requires a flexible approach to working hours and the postholder will need to be able to cope with the demands of a small but very busy office.

The recently refurbished offices are located in Westminster within walking distance of both St James's Park and Westminster underground stations.

Please ring 0171 976 7593 (answerphone out of hours) for an application pack. The closing date for applications will be Tuesday 14 February 1995. Please quote reference 8/95/1.

TRAFFIC DIRECTOR FOR LONDON

Derek Turner BEng, CEng, FICE, FIHT, MIMgt

The Traffic Director for London is an equal opportunities employer. Strictly no agencies

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY £18,000-£18,500

Newly appointed Finance Director (newspaper publishing background, early thirties) is looking for a flexible, capable and self-reliant Exec. Sec. to work with him when he moves across to the "book" side of this large multinational company in central London. Initially helping to set-up office/finance, skills should include full command of Word for Windows, ideally with some spreadsheet knowledge and if possible, shorthand. Benefits include 5 weeks holiday.

Call Sue Douglas (Apt)

0171 481 7911

RECEPTIONIST Publishing Co

High profile multi-national Publishing Company specialising in books, magazines, newsletters and conference organising is looking for two Receptionists, one to be permanently stationed on the "Director's Floor" the other to work as part of a team of four dealing with visitors and a hectic switchboard. Previous relevant experience necessary especially for the "team" role, some WP useful. 5 weeks holiday.

Salary £12,000-£13,000.

Call Sue Douglas (Apt)

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Corporate Image

Senior Secretary - £18,000

This is an important position within a major PLC. The busy Company Secretary is looking for a right hand - someone he can trust to produce detailed high quality work. You will be given responsibility so you should be mature enough to handle important tasks with efficiency and initiative. As the position involves working at a high level, you should have experience of working in a fast moving office environment - possibly legal - and you must have excellent secretarial skills.

If a career with a thriving PLC agrees with you, call Wendy NOW on 0171 240 0040 or fax her TODAY on 0171 240 1889.

Working Girls Ltd, Professional Recruitment

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PA - AGED 25-35

Name your salary - preferably above £23,000

Is there anybody out there who is London based, a non-smoker, (preferably not a Capricorn), a top Secretary/PA and who wants to work as a member of a small, happy team in the Holborn Circus area? I need somebody educated to A-Level standard. Other essential requirements are numeracy, trustworthiness, a pleasant manner, well spoken and 100/60 skills.

Ring 0171 404 3111

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4 hours per day for BRAND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY

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NEWS INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

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SALARY £16,500 Excellent Benefits

Dynamic, first class secretary required for fast-moving, exciting Marketing Department to the UK's two largest selling newspaper titles. As a key team member, you will need excellent secretarial skills (90/65) together with the ability to work on your own initiative. You should have 2-3 years office experience for this challenging and rewarding role.

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Chairman in the Arts needs mature PA with Board level experience. Excellent s/h and typing (100/60 minimum) and numeracy essential. An interest in books and performing arts a distinct advantage. £25,000. WC2.

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Law Report February 1 1995 Chancery Division

No public interest immunity for confidential bank reports

Kaufmann and Others v Credit Lyonnais Bank

Before Mr Justice Arden
(Judgment December 20)

Confidential reports disclosed voluntarily by a banking institution to the regulatory body of which it was a member, providing full and frank accounts of the operations and management of its private client banking department, would not be entitled to public interest immunity, as a class, in respect of a claim for production of those reports by investment clients of the bank, unless it could be clearly demonstrated that there was a need to withhold such information from investors.

Mrs Justice Arden so held in the Chancery Division, in a reserved judgment, when granting an application by the first, second and third plaintiffs, respectively, Julio Kaufmann, Kety Kaufmann and Signature Enterprises Ltd, for the production of certain documents by the defendant, Credit Lyonnais Bank, under Order 24, rule 1(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, which had already been disclosed by the defendant to the Security and Futures Authority (SFA) and to the Bank of England. The hearing and the judgment were in chambers but judgment was released in open court on January 27.

Mr John Powell, QC and Mr Thomas Lowe for the plaintiffs; Mr Iain Milligan, QC and Mr Duncan Matthews for the defendant.

MRS JUSTICE ARDEN said that the defendant resisted the application on the ground, principally, of public interest immunity.

The allegations in the action arose out of the conduct of the defendant as discretionary manager of the plaintiffs' investments. The defendant was authorised to conduct investment business by the Securities Association (ISA).

The plaintiffs alleged, inter alia, that in 1990 and 1991 the defendant acted in breach of the rules of the ISA and/or negligently and/or in breach of fiduciary duty owed to the plaintiffs and was liable in damages to the plaintiffs under

section 52 of the Financial Services Act 1986. The defendant denied liability.

The documents disclosed in the list served by the defendant on discovery but production of which was resisted were:

1 A report dated July 31, 1992 and a supplemental report undated, in each case prepared by Linklaters & Paines, the defendant's solicitors, and addressed to the SFA.

2 A report by Ernst & Young, the defendant's auditors, to the SFA.

3 Correspondence between the defendant and the SFA and between Linklaters and the SFA and between Ernst & Young and the defendant at or subsequent to the reports.

Later evidence filed on the application showed that the report also contained various proposals for change within the defendant.

Category 3 above included a letter from Ernst & Young to the defendant which was said to be immune from production because it related to one of the reports made by the defendant to the SFA. Reference was made to *Alfred Crompton Amusement Machines Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners* (No 2) [1974] AC 405, 433F.

Copies of the report were sent to the Bank of England as the then supervisory body of the defendant as a banking institution.

In all cases the reports were sent in confidence.

Her Ladyship envisaged that what the plaintiffs would hope to find in such documents were:

1 Admissions as to breaches of SFA rules with respect to the defendant's private client department.

2 An explanation of the weaknesses of that department.

3 The version of the events concerning the conduct of the plaintiffs' affairs which, after investigation, the defendant put forward to the SFA in 1992.

4 An indication of what possible witnesses of fact told the defendant in 1992.

Class of documents for which public interest immunity was claimed.

Mr Milligan submitted that the disputed documents formed part of a

class of documents to which public interest immunity attached as a class.

The class was defined as documents containing "information which was (i) disclosed to a regulator voluntarily and in confidence (ii) other than as a matter of routine (iii) brought into being for the purpose of enabling the regulator more effectively to discharge its functions or duties (iv) save where the disclosure of that information by the regulator was necessary for the proper performance of its functions and duties."

By (iv) her Ladyship understood Mr Milligan to mean that the class could, notwithstanding public interest immunity, properly disclose information for the purposes mentioned.

While the submission referred to a regulator her Ladyship was concerned only with information disclosed to the SFA and the Bank of England and the instant judgment was principally concerned with the position of the SFA. Likewise, the reports in question were submitted by a member firm of the SFA and related to its own conduct.

The submission quoted above and the evidence filed on behalf of the defendant also dealt with sources other than a member firm with information which even though provided by a member firm related to the affairs of some other member firm.

In *MGN Pension Trustees v Invesco Asset Management Ltd* [unreported, October 14, 1993] a claim was made for public interest immunity for, inter alia, correspondence between another self-regulatory organisation for the purposes of the Financial Services Act 1986, namely the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO). Counsel had not referred to any other case in which the question whether such documents carried public interest immunity had been considered.

Public interest immunity might be claimed either on the basis that the documents formed part of a class which ought to be immune, or, alternatively, on the basis that the documents in question ought by virtue of their contents to be treated as immune.

In *Duncan v Cammell Laird & Co Ltd* [1942] AC 624, 634, 635, the

effect of a class-based immunity was that a document was immune from disclosure without reference to its contents, that is, irrespective of the question whether disclosure of the contents of the document would be contrary to the public interest.

Financial Services Act 1986

Under section 7 of the 1986 Act a member of a recognised self-regulating organisation (SRO) was an authorised person by virtue of its membership of that organisation. The SFA was an SRO.

As section 8(1) made clear, the primary function of an SRO was to regulate the carrying on of an investment business. It was a precondition of recognition that the SRO satisfied Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (section 10(2); see also Schedule 2 paragraphs 3, 4 and 6).

In addition, the organisation must be able and willing to promote high standards of integrity and fair dealing and be prepared to share information with the secretary of state and other regulatory bodies: see Schedule 2, paragraph 7.

The evidence stated that it was also the SFA's responsibility to maintain confidence in the investment business and to be prepared to share information with the secretary of state and other regulatory bodies: see Schedule 2, paragraph 7.

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regulators will be discoverable. It is almost certain that such advice will be followed.

The disclosure obligation of member firms was contained in the SFA rules in the circumstances described by rule 2.46: "A firm must inform the SFA immediately of any transactions or events which are likely to involve (a) a significant contravention by the firm of the rules of the SFA or (b) any other matter which would be material to the requirements of the firm or its registered person to remain fit and proper."

Her Ladyship said that she was not asked to assume that member firms would not comply with their disclosure obligations which included the obligation to make disclosure immediately. Accordingly, what was at risk was not compliance with rule 2.46 but the disclosure of information which went beyond that obligation.

The Bank of England

The Bank of England asserted on its own behalf public interest immunity in respect of the reports sent to the SFA and to it. It also supported the SFA's claim to public interest immunity with respect to communications between regulators and institutions.

However, the role of the Bank of England in the instant situation was a secondary one. Therefore the decision of the instant case was confined to information in documents produced to the Bank of England in like circumstances and did not cover information provided to it as a primary regulator.

The evidence regarding the SFA, the salient points were:

1 That without confidentiality, member firms of the SFA might be less forthcoming to the SFA with regard to disclosures not falling within rule 2.46;

2 That the information thus volunteered was an important part of information which enabled the SFA to discharge its function mentioned above; and

3 That without that information performance by the SFA of its functions would be impaired.

The public interest, therefore, which the evidence supported was the encouragement of disclosures which went beyond rule 2.46, for example disclo-

tures which covered matters not covered by rule 2.46 or which contained further matters such as proposals for material changes not required by rule 2.46.

Her Ladyship having dealt in detail with a number of questions raised by the application, including a large number of authorities, turned to *R v Chief Constable of the West Midlands, Ex parte Wiley* (The Times July 15, 1994) [1994] 3 WLR 433 a decision which she considered of great importance.

That case, vigorously reiterated (at pp446A-B) that a heavy onus lay on a person who sought to establish a new class claim to public interest immunity which is what the defendant appeared to seek to do in the instant case. It drew together authorities which vividly illustrated the dangers of a class claim: see also *Neilson v Laugharne* ([1981] QB 736) and *Ex parte Coventry Newspapers Ltd* ([1993] QB 278).

In *Ex parte Wiley*, Lord Woolf, with whom the remainder of the House agreed, concluded that the decision in *Neilson* had caused the law in relation to public interest immunity to take a "wrong turn" (p443B) and that "no sufficient case [had] ever been made out to justify the class of public interest immunity recognised in *Neilson*" (p443C).

A similar situation applied in the instant case.

The only basis on which a class-based public interest immunity could be justified here was that it was "necessary" (to withhold the whole class) for the proper functioning of the public service: per Viscount Simon, Lord Chancellor in the *Duncan* case (at p12).

The principal reason given was that member firms would otherwise be deterred from making prompt and full disclosure to the SFA. That was the sort of matter which the court was entitled to assess: per Lord Reid in *Conway v Rimmer* ([1968] AC 910, 952C).

Where a serious breach had occurred the member firm would know that in due course its activities were likely to become public knowledge and in that event it was going to be difficult to see that it was immunity which was going to have effect on its conduct.

However, the class as formulated was

too wide. The need to promote candour could not justify withholding the whole of the class identified by Mr Milligan.

The communication might, in fact, amount to more than a member firm was in any event bound to provide under rule 2.46.

In such case, the primary motivation of a member firm in making the disclosure could be to comply with the rule and preserve its status as fit and proper and be matter of confidentiality would not enter into its judgment.

The attempt to comply might have been inept. The member firm might have disclosed less than it ought to have done, and, in reporting matters promptly, it would be liable to the risk of being found in the withholding of a report in the circumstances was necessary to ensure the proper working of the SFA.

Likewise if a class-based claim was admitted the system could be abused by those who wished all the material likely to be sensitive to litigation into a report to the SFA. Immunity of class could again not be necessary for the proper working of the SFA in those circumstances.

None of those submissions was addressed in the evidence. However, as far as material, the protection of investors, the need for a class-based claim to public interest immunity which would result in the withholding of information from investors must be duly considered.

Her Ladyship therefore declined to accept the class claim put forward by Mr Milligan.

She differed from the decision of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe in the *MGN* case with difference but in the mind that the decision in *Ex parte Wiley* was not available to him.

Solicitors: Robin Jacobson Lipman; Linklaters & Paines.

Whether creditor is secured under Act

In re a Debtor (No 10 of 1992)

Before Mr Martin Mann, QC
(Judgment January 18)

An execution creditor who had the benefit of a walking possession agreement entered into by a sheriff under a writ of fieri facias was a secured creditor for the purposes of section 258(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Mr Martin Mann, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held in a reserved judgment on an application by a creditor to establish whether he was a secured creditor of the first respondent. The third respondent was the supervisor of the voluntary arrangement.

Miss Lena Hilliard for the creditor; Mr Mark Cawson for the debtors; Mr John Briggs for the supervisor.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the debtors acquired and ran as partners a country house hotel.

They were indebted to the National Westminster Bank plc in the sum of £1,300,000, £600,000 of which was secured. They had other unsecured creditors, principally trade creditors, who were owed a total of some £120,000.

The creditor had invested £25,000 in the hotel and had been

employed as general manager. On March 9, 1992 he commenced an action against the debtors for arrears of salary and repayment of his investment.

A default judgment for £54,040, subsequently substituted by a consent judgment for £35,000 plus costs, was entered on April 10, 1992 and on April 14, 1992 execution proceeded under a writ of fieri facias.

The sheriff acted immediately under the writ by taking walking possession over some 626-odd chattels comprising most, if not all, of the hotel furniture, furnishings, fittings and motor vehicles.

On January 6, 1993 the debtors received the approval of a meeting of creditors summoned under section 257 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to individual voluntary arrangements with the creditors. As part of the approved arrangements the supervisor was to sell the hotel as a going concern. The creditor sought to challenge that arrangement on the ground that it unfairly prejudiced his rights as a creditor.

Section 258(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 provided: "The meeting shall not approve any proposal or modification which affects the right of a secured creditor of the debtor to enforce his security except with the concurrence of the

creditor concerned". The creditor therefore had to establish his status as a secured creditor.

The only statutory guidance was provided by section 383(2) and (4) of the 1986 Act which provided so far as material that "a debt is secured for the purposes of this group of parts to the extent that the person to whom the debt is owed holds any security for that debt (whether a mortgage, charge, lien or other security) over any property of the person by whom the debt is owed".

His Lordship referred to *Ex parte Williams* ([1872] Law Rep Ch App 314), in re Charles Clarke (1988) 1 Ch 326, 329 and section 138(7) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and inferred that the security right which an execution creditor had under a writ of fieri facias, which had been acted upon by seizure, was not unlike a lien, which was a security right expressly contemplated by section 383(2).

The fact that such a security right had not been enforced was nothing to the point. It was enough that the debtor's property in the goods was bound. It was clearly irrelevant that the property had not yet passed into the creditor's hands as on completion of the execution by sale.

In the present case, the customer had allowed the theatre to make whatever use it wished of the ticket money. By allowing the theatre to use the money for its own purposes the customer accepted the risk of the theatre's insolvency and it would be inequitable to give the customer the right to trace or to place him, as the beneficiary of a trust, in a better position than any unsecured creditor of the theatre.

The terms of the sale of the ticket did not give the customer any proprietary interest in the money paid and received for the theatre performance so that, pursuant to section 5(1) of the 1983 Act, the output tax was due at the time of payment.

Solicitors: Carrer Vincent Jones Davis, Bangor; Rosalind Hallifax & Co; Booth & Co, Leeds.

That contrasted with the situation in a bankruptcy. The effect of section 346(1) and (5) was that in bankruptcy an execution creditor was deprived of his security right under a writ of fieri facias delivered to the sheriff until after the property in the debtor's goods seized had passed out of the debtor's hands.

It was unsurprising that there was no comparable provision applicable to an individual voluntary arrangement because in that situation the supervisor did not obtain the property in the debtor's goods or any prior right to it.

The execution creditor of a debtor who had been adjudicated bankrupt did not find that his security had been divested by the doctrine of relation back and, the sheriff did not become a wrongful debtor by virtue of the individual voluntary arrangement if he dealt with the goods.

In his Lordship's judgment, therefore, the creditor was a secured creditor for the purposes of section 258(4) whose security right had been written off by the individual voluntary arrangement.

Solicitors: Carrer Vincent Jones Davis, Bangor; Rosalind Hallifax & Co; Booth & Co, Leeds.

Warning over interim contact orders

Before Mr Justice Wall

Justices should be cautious about making interim contact orders where the principle of contact was in dispute and substantial factual issues relating to the child were unresolved.

Mr Justice Wall so held in a reserved judgment in the Family Division allowing an appeal by the mother against the decision of Mr Justice Wall on December 21, 1994 that the father should have interim contact with his son aged six pending a final hearing of his application for contact.

Mr Christopher Wagstaffe for the mother; Miss Sarah Morgan for the father.

MR JUSTICE WALL said that the question which justices should ask themselves when interim contact was proposed was not simply whether contact was in the child's best interests, but whether it was in his interests to make an interim order.

Interim orders presented courts with particular difficulties. By their very nature they were unlikely to be made with a full understanding of all the facts and there would not normally have been full evidence given, with cross-examination as to all the relevant facts. It followed that interim orders for contact, whether in public law or private law proceedings, needed to be approached with a degree of caution.

There were, broadly speaking, two categories of case involving contact in private family law proceedings. The first was where the principle of contact was accepted by both parties as being in the interests of the child and the issue was the quantum or nature of the contact to be enjoyed.

Where the principle of contact was not in issue, interim orders pending a final determination of the question raised could often be made quite properly without detailed investigation or the court hearing oral evidence. That could be done either by seeking the lowest common denominator which was acceptable to the parties, or by imposing an interim

regime which in no way prejudiced the final outcome. The guiding principle remained the application of the welfare test in section 1 of the Children Act 1989 to each case.

Where the principle of contact was in issue, the test remained the welfare test under section 1, but the fact that the principle of contact was in issue itself became a factor which had to be considered in the welfare equation.

In addition, there was the obvious danger in some cases that unless made as part of a coherent strategy for the child, and unless planned and implemented with great care, interim orders would be seen as prejudging the very issue of which the court was seized, namely, should that child see his estranged parent at all?

It followed, that while interim orders for contact could be made in such cases, on the papers and without hearing oral evidence, the greatest care had to be taken before such an order was made to ensure (a) that on the facts as they currently presented themselves it was truly in the interests of the child and (b) where relevant, that the order did not prejudice the issue.

The circumstances in which interim orders for contact were likely to be made in cases where the principle of contact was in issue were broadly twofold. The first was where the interim contact was precatory, to be ordered as part of the overall adjudication process; thus, usually on the advice of a court welfare officer or child psychiatrist, the

court ordered a trial of closely observed contact in order to assess the reactions of the child and the other parties. That assessment then fell into the overall equation at the final hearing.

The second category was where the court had sufficient information to be satisfied that an interim order was in the child's interests even though the possibility existed that at the final hearing the court might come to a different conclusion.

The circumstances in which the latter type of order could be made were obviously much more diverse. One example was where contact had been continuing happily for many years; was enjoyed by the child and had become part of the child's routine; and where the residential parent for reasons which were prima facie inequitable or spiteful, terminated it for no apparently good reason.

In such circumstances there might well be sound reasons for the court robustly reinstating the contact as being in the interests of the child, even if, on a final and detailed investigation, it became apparent that the continuation of contact was likely to impose strains on the child of sufficient severity to outweigh the benefit of contact continuing.

Apart from cases in which previously satisfactory contact had been arbitrarily terminated by the residential parent, it was difficult to envisage circumstances in which an interim order for contact could properly be made in a case in which the principle of contact was

genuinely in dispute and where there were substantial factual issues relating to the child unresolved, without the court either (i) hearing oral evidence and forming an assessment of the parties and the likely effect on the child of contact and/or (ii) having the advice of a court welfare officer or other expert as to the likely effect of contact on the child.

In every case where contact was disputed the court had to remember that it was dealing with a child who was in the middle of a parental conflict and that the parties were likely to turn. The court might well be acting with a child who had not on the other parent for a long time.

Contact in those circumstances could be very stressful for the child; hence the need for the court to be satisfied that the circumstances in which applications for interim contact came before the court in private law proceedings were of course, multifarious, and I would be foolish in the extreme any court to attempt to provide a exhaustive catalogue of them.

However, because of their very nature they involve making a decision on incomplete information, justices should be cautious about making interim orders where the principle of contact was in dispute, and should only do so, if, on the material before them, they were satisfied that it was in the best interests of the child for an order for contact to be made pending a full inquiry.

Solicitors: Blair Mills, Rickmansworth; Pictis, Watford.

When VAT is due on advance theatre tickets

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Richmond Theatre Management Ltd

Before Mr Justice Dyson
(Judgment January 30)

Where a customer paid money in advance for the purchase of advance tickets, the money was held without having to pay interest or account for its use, the customer retained no proprietary interest so that no trust subsisted and, for the purposes of section 5(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983, the money had been received when the customer paid it and output tax was payable from that time.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division in upholding the appeal of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against the decision of a London

VAT tribunal on March 31, 1993 that Richmond Theatre Management Ltd did not receive a payment from customers when it accepted money for advance bookings.

The terms and conditions of the sale of advance tickets by the theatre, in order to facilitate the return of money in the event of cancellation, had purported to create a trust whereby legal ownership of ticket receipts did not vest in the theatre until the performance.

Section 5 of the 1983 Act provides: "If, before the time applicable under subsection (2) or subsection (3) of section 4 above, the person making the supply issues a tax invoice in respect of it or if, before the time applicable under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (2) or subsection (3) of

that section, he receives a payment in respect of it, the supply shall, to the extent covered by the invoice or payment, be treated as taking place at the time the invoice is issued or payment is received."

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners, the theatre did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that in *Space Investments Ltd v Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Trust Co (Bahamas) Ltd* ([1986] 1 WLR 1072) it was held that since the bank as trustee had been empowered by trust instruments to deposit trust money with itself as banker, the trust money became the property of the bank and could be used for its own purposes. Accordingly the beneficiaries were not entitled to an interest in the bank's assets but were merely

entitled to claim as unsecured creditors.

In the present case, the customer had allowed the theatre to make whatever use it wished of the ticket money. By allowing the theatre to use the money for its own purposes the customer accepted the risk of the theatre's insolvency and it would be inequitable to give the customer the right to trace or to place him, as the beneficiary of a trust, in a better position than any unsecured creditor of the theatre.

The terms of the sale of the ticket did not give the customer any proprietary interest in the money paid and received for the theatre performance so that, pursuant to section 5(1) of the 1983 Act, the output tax was due at the time of payment.

Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

The Institute of Legal Executives Fellowship Admissions 1994

The Institute of Legal Executives (Ilex) admitted the following Fellows in 1994:

A

Adkins G R; Adams N J S; Airey A J; Alder P; Aldrich L; Aldrich W E; Allison D N; Almon J M; Amos L S; Amos H J; Anthony P; Ashby P A; Aspland A G; Atkins P J; Austick P.

B

Bagley J; Bains H M; Baird J S; Baldwin D R; Ball J L; Banks C; Barlow G R; Barker C M; Barker R L; Barnett A J; Barron R; Barry A M; Barter A L; Bates A J; Beaufort S; Beckett J C; Beckett S A J; Bell S; Beston N E; Bennett A; Bernard T C; Billingsley H; Bilton J L; Booth L J A S; Borders J L; Brady S; Bray S L; Brexton B M; Briggs A J; Brindley T P; Brooks A J; Brown S E; Brunskill A; Bryant M M; Bryant L; Bucken E; Buckley L; Burford L; Burnett L E; Burns A D.

C

Cable N J; Campbell T J; Canby P E; Carlo R A; Carter L E; Castledine A; Cavanagh H; Chapman E M; Chapman H J; Chan B K H; Channon E E; Chappell A C; Childs J; Childs P; Chisholm M T; Chiswick S A; Chitt A R; Chivers A J; Clear A J; Clark A E; Clark J E; Clark M A; Claxton S R; Clayton A J; Coates J C; Coates M J; Cochrane J E; Colclough G J; Colman S L; Collier J J; Colley J L; Collins V J; Collingwood O J; Colliver S W; Colwell M; Connolly E; Connolly S; Connor B; Cook D F; Cooke C R; Corcoran A M; Corrigan A C; Coyle H M A; Coyle M; Craig P; Craven P; Criddle G J; Croft R H; Crompton P; Crosby S E; Cullen T J; Cummins M; Curton K J.

D

Da Costa T K; Daley L R; Dalton P L; Davies K L; Dawtry J H; Day J C; Dearden R E; Derham M C; Devin P; Dixon J S; Dobbs H S; Doherty D; Douglas A M; Drury E; Duce K M; Durkin E A; Dwyer K E; Dyer S A.

E

Eales G M; Eastland C D C; Edinboro T A; Edwards K B; Edridge J J; Evans J K; Evans K; Eynon N M.

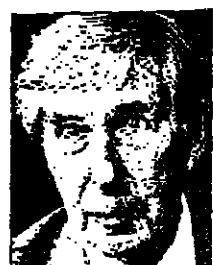
F



VISUAL ART page 36
Were the British any
good at Impressionism?
A new show throws light
on a misty subject

ARTS

OPERA page 37
What Tippett gained and
lost when he fashioned
his own libretto from
the Iliad for King Priam



The ultimate time-and-motion study

Why are 45 toy cars
careering around
the Queen's House
in Greenwich?
Nigel Hawkes,
science editor, has
some of the answers

Tatsuo Miyajima is an artist obsessed with time. In a darkened space he measures out the passing seconds with bright red light-emitting diodes, blindly counting like so many digital clocks.

At the Queen's House in Greenwich, where Miyajima's latest installation can be seen from today, until March 5, the artist and the gallery are united in a strange symbiosis. For Greenwich is where East meets West at the meridian line, and where the first accurate measurements of time were made.

The canvas for *Running Time* is the marble floor of the Great Hall at the Queen's House, designed by Inigo Jones in the early 17th century. A perfect 40-foot cube, the room has been blacked out for the duration and the work is observed from a gallery running around the hall about two-thirds the height of the ceiling.

On the floor, constrained within a shallow wooden threshold, Miyajima has placed 45 small electric cars, each about nine inches by six and with a red counter on its roof. As the visitor looks down, the cars crawl slowly and silently across the floor, counting out the digits from 1 to 9 as they go.

They do not collide, or crash into the walls, because they are fitted with sensors which detect the approach of an obstacle and put the motors into reverse. Mostly they run in perfectly straight lines, but immediately after reversing, they seem to curve gently before setting off on a new path.

The effect, in a room blacked out by thick curtains, is curiously mesmerising. Sometimes the cars stop altogether, apparently drawing breath. Sometimes several form a small and brilliant constellation in one corner of the room, then part again and resume their endless wanderings. Only a gentle electric hum attends their passage, because the wheels are shod with rubber and the cars run silent.

Here, if you like, is an image of the cosmos, or of the particles in an atom, forming and reforming in an endless and never-repeated cycle, or even of human lives, each singular yet linked to those of others. Or, if you prefer, here is a wonderfully-realised electronic toy which conceals its nature in the dark, and weaves hypnotic spells. The show is open for up to three



Tatsuo Miyajima caught in the midst of *Running Time*, which he terms "movement within movement". This new work is now on show in the darkened atmosphere of the Queen's House, Greenwich

hours every day (4.30pm to 7pm Tuesday to Thursday, and 3pm to 6pm Friday to Sunday), after which the little cars have to be plugged into the mains to recharge their batteries.

Miyajima has been creating works like these, based on electronic counters, for the past five years. Born in Tokyo in 1957, he studied at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and made his first foray into performance art by shouting out aloud in the midst of a crowd on a Tokyo street.

Asked by James Lingwood of Artangel, the cultural entrepreneur responsible for bringing Miyajima to Greenwich, whether this act might not be seen as expressing

pessimism or alienation, the artist gave an enigmatic reply. "Art is nature," he asserted, adding that human beings create in order to act naturally. He had sought through performance art to affect people emotionally, but finding the effect ephemeral, had moved towards a more enduring experience.

This began at the Venice Biennale in 1988, with *Sea of Time*, a series of digital diodes scattered around the floor enumerating endlessly, and was followed by number-counters arranged in rings, in straight lines, and in lattices. Now Miyajima has added movement, choreographing his clocks in space as well as time.

"One reason I was attracted by

his work" says James Lingwood, "was that it gave me a sublime feeling of terror or awe, such as one might have felt in front of a landscape painting of the early 19th century." For me, I must confess, the feeling was more one of curiosity about how Miyajima had managed to manipulate his little cars so invisibly. But a work of art isn't supposed to strike every observer in an identical fashion.

Artangel are specialists at controversy, being the people who last year brought us Rachel Whiteread's *House*. This concrete casting of a terraced house in Bow raised temperatures all round before it was finally bulldozed. Many tried to save it, but probably just as

many were delighted to see it go.

For Artangel the commission was a triumph, though Lingwood says that the organisation does not seek to shock — that would be mere agitprop. Its purpose, he says, is to commission one-off projects in places where the artist would not otherwise work. "They range from poetic to prosaic and urban to rural," he says. "We don't seek to forge a consensus, but to generate discussion. If people find the work neutral or anodyne, we would be disappointed."

Nobody visiting the Queen's House is likely to reach for these adjectives. But what, they may ask themselves, is it all about? Miyajima has said that *Running Time* is

an attempt to express the nature of time on the basis of Einstein's theory of relativity and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

Einstein, of course, integrated space and time into a single entity, space-time, and showed that the rate at which time passed changed with the velocity of motion, though you need a particle accelerator and not an electric car to demonstrate this. Heisenberg delighted the philosophically inclined by stating in 1927 that it is impossible to make an exact and simultaneous measurement of both the position and the velocity of any body.

"To do so, I use 'time gadgets', all ticking with a different rhythm," Miyajima says. "The gadgets move

around the space at random. Previously my gadgets were 'movement within stasis'. This time I am working with 'movement within movement'."

This strikes me as arm-waving rather than argument. There is nothing in the work that casts any illumination on either Einstein or Heisenberg, at least to this observer. But the visitor cannot fail to be charmed by the patterns Miyajima has woven. They didn't strike me as sublime, but I did find them clever and entertaining, and to ask for more would be greedy.

● *Running Time* is at the Queen's House, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE18 6SP until March 5.

JAZZ: An uneasy alliance between an Argentinian and the London Philharmonic; startling originality from one of today's most idiosyncratic ensembles

Tentatively crossing over

Ever since Paul Whiteman asked George Gershwin to come up with a jazz concerto and was duly rewarded with *Rhapsody in Blue*, jazz composers have been searching for common ground with the classics. The Argentine pianist Lalo Schifrin has spent a good part of his career pursuing this particular holy grail. While studying under Messiaen in Paris he regularly disappeared to take part in jam sessions in the clubs, and by his early thirties he had joined Dizzy Gillespie's group.

Now he is best known for his film scores: Clint Eastwood blew away villains in *Dirty Harry* with his music in the background. The movie connection perhaps explains why much of his collaboration

Jazz Meets The Symphony Festival Hall

with the London Philharmonic had a tentative and unresolved air about it, as if the notes were sketches for some larger enterprise. Schifrin's lugubrious presentation and his unswinging block chords failed to inject life into the tributes to Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong or the collage of themes by Duke Ellington.

Thank goodness that James Morrison was on hand to invoke the free spirit of jazz. For some reason this superb multi-instrumentalist has not yet made much of an impression in this country. Perhaps

we only have room for one paunchy, balding Australian. What is clear is that he plays standards, from both the swing and bebop eras, with as much flair as any of the more fashionable American names.

Some of Schifrin's arrangements did not call for much beyond high-note fireworks. But Morrison still showed dazzling control in the uppermost register, and exceptional stamina as he switched from trumpet to trombone, flugelhorn to piccolo trumpet.

Morrison's bravura performance seemed to prod the orchestra into playing with a tad more abandon. Schifrin's most elegant and economical writing was reserved for "Back to the Blues".

CLIVE DAVIS



Schifrin: lugubrious presentation and lack of swing

Poetry from a master

The two words most frequently encountered in any discussion of Paul Motian's drumming style have always been taste and control. Indeed, the pianist Bill Evans, with whose trio Motian first became widely celebrated for his subtle musicality, considered the drummer's contribution to his music so valuable that when Motian quit to follow his growing interest in freer jazz, Evans reportedly refused to speak to him for 15 years.

During this silence, Motian honed his already considerable jazz sensibilities, both in free music and by contributing his unique sound to the American quartet of Keith Jarrett. His most frequent collaborators throughout this band-leading career have been the

Paul Motian Trio Jazz Café

saxophonist Joe Lovano and the guitarist Bill Frisell. This exhilarating Jazz Café concert demonstrated just why they find Motian's music so compelling: not only does it provide them with the perfect platform for their solo skills, but it also enables them to contribute towards one of the most original group sounds in contemporary jazz.

Typically — and this Camden gig was no exception — the trio concentrates mostly on Motian tunes, notable both for their startlingly original melodies and their strongly percussive core, but it also explores the music of other jazz mas-

ters, from Monk to Mingus. The latter's passionate but slow-burning ballad, "Duke Ellington's Sound of Love" elicited an extraordinary display of squeezed hysteria from the trio. Frisell's unique guitar sound and Lovano's cultured, urgent tenor combining with Motian's gossamer-light brushwork to produce a performance of breathtaking delicacy.

Motian's experience in free music and in the bands of Evans and Jarrett has made him adept at hinting at a tune's underlying pulse and simultaneously following every subtlety of his soloists' improvisations. As drummer-leaders go, Motian is simply in a class of his own.

CHRIS PARKER

Dresden remembered

A BRITISH orchestra is going to Dresden to help to mark the 50th anniversary of the Allied bombing of the city. At the invitation of the German Government, the English Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Yehudi Menuhin, will perform Mozart's Requiem in two memorial concerts (Feb 12-13). But before they leave, the ESO will present the Requiem in Coventry, a city devastated by German bombers in April 1941. More than 1,300 people are expected to fill Coventry Cathedral on Sunday for the concert, which is being presented free to the citizens of Coventry.

ARTS BRIEFING

● DEBORAH PAIGE, formerly of the Salisbury Playhouse, is taking over as artistic director of Sheffield Theatres, responsible for the Crucible, the Lyceum, Studio and the Lyceum. Paige, who assumes her new post on May 1, has long directing experience at the ICA and Hampstead Theatre in London, Bristol Old Vic, the British Council and the New Shakespeare Company.

FOLK: Celtic sounds, bluegrass and country meet in the music of a Nova Scotia family

Canada's reel thing

Rankin Family Dominion, WI

country. It has proved a winning combination. Their 1993 album, *North Country*, swept up a variety of awards, and brought to a wider attention the pure voices of sisters Heather, Raylene and Cookie. Although the family's acoustic sound has been augmented on this short British tour with four extra musicians playing guitars, fiddle and drums, their music requires less formal surroundings. The reels

— played with great aplomb by fiddlers John Morris Rankin and Howie MacDonald — were infectious, vivacious pieces, but most of the crowd were too timid for aise dancing. One couple did perform a five by the fives, but they were in the minority.

The pace was suitably varied for a two-hour set, covering material from the family's three albums. Quick-rhythmed songs like "As I Roved" and "Forty Days" gave way to some tingly Gaelic-tongued numbers, which illuminated the strengths of the sisters' voices. Raylene stood

out, showing — on "Rise Again" — an unerring aim for the high notes.

For the greater part, the Rankins have wedded old and new influences well. Floating synth lines provided songs about unrequited love with an additional source of melancholia. But this fine balance was disturbed with some obtrusively funky bass lines on the new single, "Grey Dusk of Eve". Good humour and the traditional tunes won out. A fiercely competitive fiddle duet proved a fiery encounter and a closing version of "Main's Wedding" sent the crowd skipping homeward through the London rain.

LOUISE GRAY

UNTIL 4 MARCH
"the best ticket in town"

Straussberg's
"curiously comic"

The Dance of Death

John Mayhew
"touches greatness"

Gemma Jones
"one of the best performances you will see this year"

Anthony O'Donnell
"excellent"

"unmissable"

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Off to
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LONDON

MAMA, I WANT TO SING Opening night for the poppy American celebration of rhythm and blues, gospel and jazz based on the life of the Harlem singer Dora. Five soloists play her own music. With the over-the-hill Chaka Khan. **Edinburgh Street, WC2** (0171-494 5000). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat. Tue and Sat, 4pm.

A MESSIAH FROM THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC Chorus. Cammilleri conducts the orchestra for tonight's performance of Handel's masterpiece in aid of the Malvern Sargent Cancer Fund for children. **Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1** (0171-323 8811). Tonight, 7.30pm. Sat, 3pm.

ANOTHER WEDNESDAY DOUBLE-BILL AT THE WIGMORE Dame Margot Price and Thomas Dewey open their monthly high-hour concert with a popular programme of folk and chamber music. **Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1** (0171-955 2141). Tonight, 8pm. Sat, 8pm. (BBC Radio 3 and 4).

ELSEWHERE The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's temporary move to the Cathedral gives a period setting for a

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Krys Anderson

performance of one of Elgar's great choral works, *The Kingdom*. **Handel Concerts**, with Jean Rodgers, Catherine Wyn Rogers, Philip Langridge, Stephen Roberts and the Philharmonia Choir. **Angelica Cathedral, Hope Street** (0151-209 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER Hans Graf joins the Halle Orchestra for a free night, all-Stockholm programme of music. **Concerts**, Symphony No 8 and Piano Concerto No 5, "Empire". **John Brownson** plays the piano. **Free Trade Hall, Peter Street** (0161-834 1712). Tonight, tomorrow and Sun, 7.30pm.

HARBOROUGH Since its great success in the West End last year, David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* is an even more popular production now. **Andrew Marley** (Harrogate) and **Madison Heddon** (Scarborough) direct the American university drama that brings a violent battle of attitudes onstage, and may lead to famous arguments afterwards.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre in London
House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

through 45 minutes each way
David Newson Street, WC2
(0171-636 2123). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6.15 and 8.30pm.

THE LIVE BED SHOW Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1989 Edinburgh Festival comedy, *Caroline Quentin* and *Paul Merton* play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed. **Manic Street Preachers**, **WC2** (0171-494 5000). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Feb 7.

SUZANNE ANDER Susan Anderson's original musical *Marquise Duras* is a lyrical drama of love and loss. **Liza Fennell** directs the author's play. **BAC 1, Lavenham Hill, Battersea, SW11** (0171-232 2222). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, 5.30pm. Until Feb 26.

THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE *Carroll*. Award-winning performance from *Up to the Mountains and Down in the Valley* in Simon McBurney's thrilling production on the lives and death of a woman. **Theatre de Complicité** begin an international tour here. **Shakespeare Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2** (0171-379 5555). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 8pm. Mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

THE THEATRE OPERA *Phyllida Lloyd's* splendidly inventive revival of *Wolf* is the opera, with Tom Hollander as *Meister*.

Harrogate, Oxford Street (01423-502111). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat. Sat, 2.30pm. **Stephen Joseph Theatre** in the *Round*, *Valley Bridge Road* (01723 205411). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Mat. Sat, 2.30pm.

WORKING Fiona Fullerton and Nigel Davenport continue their tour of *Shakespeare's* witty comedy of manners, *The Constant Wife*. An appropriate early 1950s view of marriage, betrayal and fashionable decor. **New Victoria, Peacock Arts Centre** (01483 761144). Tue-Sat, 8pm. Mat. 10.30, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm.

LONDON GALLERIES *Baroness's* introduction to production (0171-636 4441). **British Museum** Chinese Arms and Armour, *Modernism* (0171-636 1555). **Courtyard** *Frank Lloyd Wright* 1915-1954 (0171-636 2526). **Royal Festival Hall** *It's a Pleasure*, nine contemporary artists (0171-636 2202). **National Gallery** *The Age of Elegance* (0171-636 3331). **National Portrait Gallery** *Christina Rossetti* (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy** *Nicolas Poussin* (0171-439 7439). **Serpentine** *Man Ray* (0171-402 8075). **Tate** *New Displays* 1995, *Works on Paper*, *Gaetano Pizzoni* to the *Pre-Raphaelites* (0171-717 8000). **V & A** *Nehru Gallery*, *Streetstyle* (0171-336 8600). **Whitechapel**, *Works in a Box* (0171-522 7888).

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OPERA: Looking forward to ENO's revival of Tippett's Trojan drama... and back on Musgrave's latest premiere

Off to war in words and music

As the epic *King Priam* returns to London, Philip Howard asks if Tippett was wise to construct his own libretto from the *Iliad*

In opera, great music — such as Verdi composed for *Il trovatore* — can triumph over a terrible libretto. Operagoers of Europe may have known Metastasio's "little books" by heart in the 18th century, as they sang along with the arias. But today's operagoers find the words more romantic in a second language. "Morgenlich leuchtend im rosigen" sounds better than "Shining resplendent in dawn's rosy light" or any other translation.

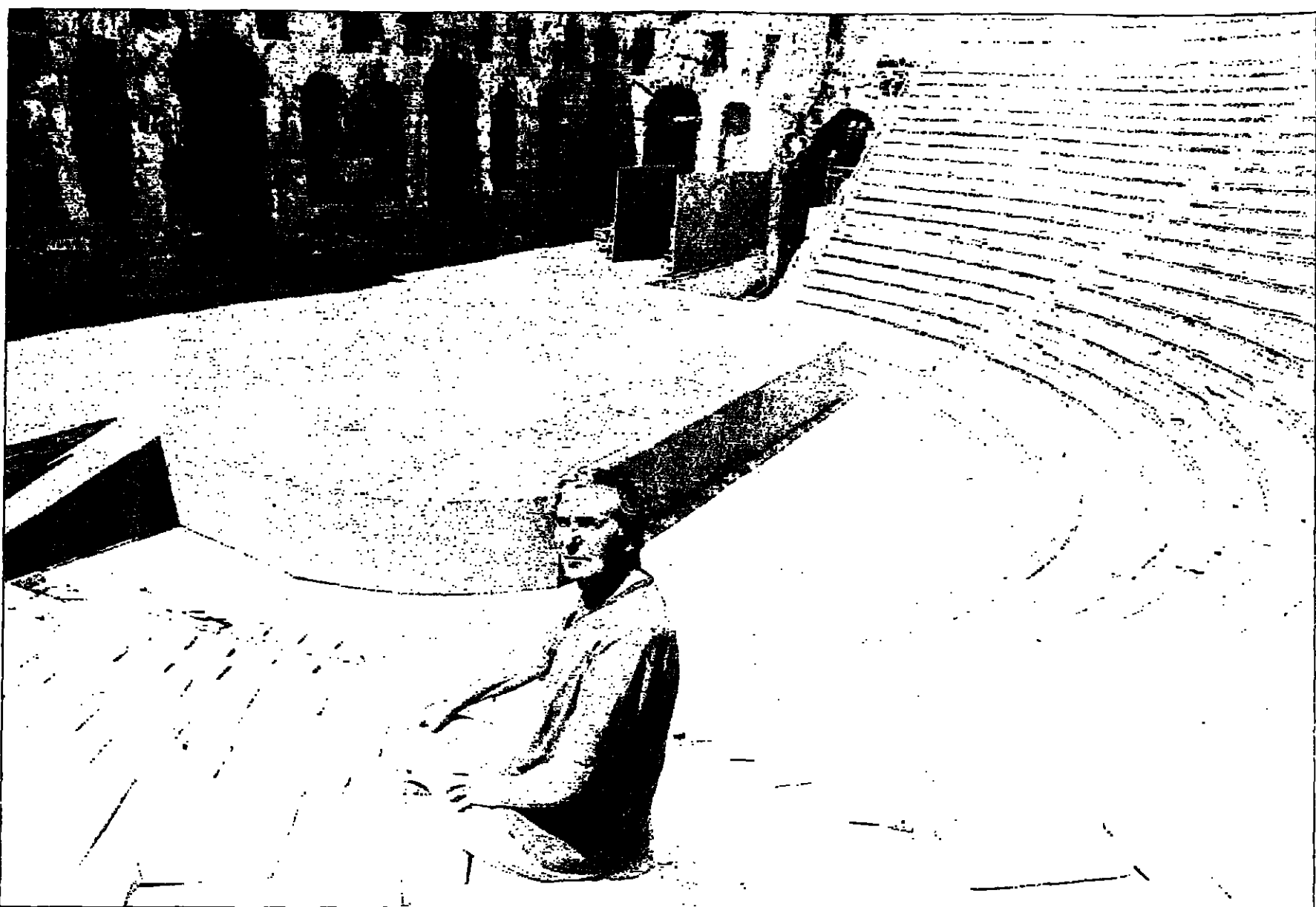
The decent obscurity of a foreign language does not distract from the music. Only rarely have the words pulled equal weight with their music. Perhaps they did so in ancient tragedy, which opera was invented to imitate. But we know so little about ancient music. Aeschylus was a high poetic librettist, but I shudder at having to construe his choruses unseen through distracting plinks and tootles and twangs. Oratorios and Requiem sets to music distinguished libretti from books that are the familiar foundations of their literature. And sometimes librettist and composer — for example, Hofmannsthal and Strauss — collaborate to make an opera greater than the sum of its parts.

Sometimes, however, composer and librettist are one and the same. Like Wagner or, in our own day, Michael Tippett. Being his own librettist enables Tippett to keep control of the complex creation and avoid clashes between wordsmith and music-maker. For *King Priam*, his epic opera about "the mysterious nature of human choice", which is revived by English National Opera

on Friday, Tippett had two fine poets in the source literature that he might have used as librettists. Christopher Logue reads little Greek, but his versions of the *Iliad* are wildly dramatic and reflect the bright noonday sun of Homer in modern English. Tony Harrison, of *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, *The Oresteia* and much other brilliant work based on the Classics, can also make ancient Greek breathe again in contemporary colloquial English and on the stage. Harrison or Logue, though, might have written libretti that distracted attention from the music.

So, as was his usual custom, Tippett wrote his own script, and as usual he was criticised for doing so, not just by the trade union of librettists. A widely muttered opinion in the profession ran: let the composer stick to his score, and hire a professional to look after the libretto. After all, for *The Midsummer Marriage*, his modern-invented romantic comedy, Tippett's libretto had poetic intimations of modern pop that could have been sung by Abba: "It isn't love I want, but truth." "O magic staircase that I've always known in dreams."

For *King Priam*, Tippett uses a less popular heightened English, with echoes overt and covert of Dylan Thomas and Yeats. Sometimes, and out of context, the words can raise faintly the smile that Housman raised broadly with his parody of contemporary "poetic" translations of Greek tragedy: "O suitably attired in leather boots/Head of a traveller, wherefore seeking whom/Whence by what way how purposed art



A modern reinterpretation of classical tragedy: Sir Michael Tippett, photographed in 1985 at the Herod Atticus Theatre in Athens, where *King Priam* was staged

thou come? To this well-nightingaled vicinity?"

When the Nurse, the Old Man and the Young Guard sing in chorus "Ah, but life is a bitter charade. We go from birth to death, but nothing is plain. Perhaps at the end a glimmering of sense a residue of meaning," there is a distant echo of the banality of "My object in enquiring is to know/But if you happen to be deaf and dumb/And do not understand a word I say/Nod with your hand to signify as much."

And when, at the climax, Priam visits Achilles in his tent to beg for the mutilated body of Hector, and says: "I clasp your knees, Achilles, and kiss your terrible, man-slaying hands", again he is singing translator's rather than poet's English. The repetitions of "Why, why, why, why," and "no, no no" are never at the level of Lear's

"Never". But that may be because they have not had four centuries to astonish us.

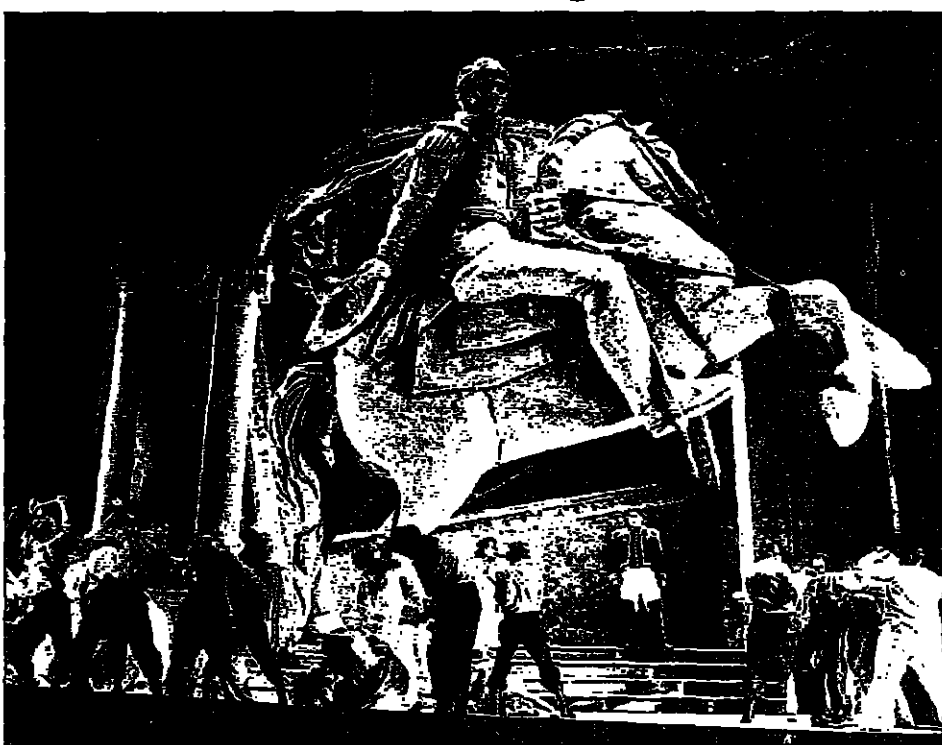
The libretto of *King Priam* is not poetry, but it is good, clear, unobtrusive poetic translation. It sticks close to the spirit and the meaning of the *Iliad*, even though we are separated by so great a gulf of time and culture from those archaic heroes and gods. Hector sings to Paris: "So you've given up fighting! I'm not surprised. You're mad about women, you pretty boy; and for myself I wish you'd never lived." This is the natural language of Leeds and London and Inverness, heightened for epic drama. Patroclus sings: "I am not you, Achilles, but disguise me in your shining armour, set me in your chariot with the immortal horses. I shall be you in all but body, and under your plume (though you stay

here) can drive back the Trojans across the plain."

The story told in the *Iliad* occupies just a few weeks towards the end of the ten-year siege of Troy. The period of *King Priam* covers a generation, from the birth of Paris to the death of Priam, taking in the central plot of the *Iliad* and some of the preceding and subsequent legend. Tippett's DIY libretto is a masterly feat of compression, discretion and sensitivity. But as always with opera, the essence that brings the drama to life is the music, from the bloodcurdling melisma of Achilles's war cry to the haunting melancholy as Priam and Achilles drink to their deaths. But Tippett's words do the music justice.

● *King Priam* opens at the Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300) on Friday at 7.30pm

In harmony with history



Lillian Garrett-Groag's Virginia staging of *Simón Bolívar*, designed by John Conklin

The process by which a major new work by one of the most experienced and accomplished of British opera composers came to be premiered by the Virginia Opera Association in Norfolk, Virginia, is a tortuous one. Thea Musgrave of course lives and works in the US, but it is more complicated than that.

Simón Bolívar was jointly commissioned by Los Angeles Opera, VOA and Scottish Opera. The premiere was originally planned for LA, and although nobody seems to want to talk about it much, the title role was to be taken by Plácido Domingo, who worked for LA Opera in an advisory capacity as well as singing and conducting there.

Hence the translation into Spanish of Musgrave's own libretto, undertaken more or less on the hoof by the producer, Lillian Garrett-Groag. At some stage Domingo and LA dropped out; Scottish Opera was having one of its occasional financial and administrative crises, and so the premiere was given last month by VOA.

Not much skin off anyone's nose — they also premiered her *Christmas Carol* (1979) and *Harriet, a Woman Called Moses* (1985 — jointly commissioned by Covent Garden, and we are still waiting for them to perform it).

But the fact that VOA's general and artistic director is the conductor Peter Mark, Musgrave's husband, gives the enterprise the wholly un-

merited feel of a "cottage industry". Musgrave is as naturally gifted a composer for the stage as anyone writing today, and she deserves a wider platform. A slap-up production of *Simón Bolívar* by Scottish Opera at some

future Edinburgh Festival would be a start.

It's a thrilling piece, conceived and executed on an epic scale. The first of the two acts, each running just over an hour, charts the triumphant campaigns of "El Libertador"

against Spanish colonial rule in the early 1800s with a panache and sweep worthy of Prokofiev's *War and Peace*; the second shows the collapse of high ideals into disillusion and treachery — the subject matter of David Blake's *Tous-*

Rodney Milnes reports from Virginia on the world premiere of a thrilling new work by Thea Musgrave

maint frequently springs to mind. The opera ends with the real Bolívar's actual words inciting a present-day South American crowd to revolt against tyranny.

Supporting characters — all historical — are cunningly sketched in, political issues raised and swiftly dispatched. The whole is swept along by music of irresistible energy and dash, with gentler soliloquies and set-piece duets deftly slotted in. The unashamedly neo-romantic idiom, with good tunes and helpful recurring motives, engages the audience's attention throughout. Musgrave has an infallible sense of theatrical pace and effect. Her use of dance, after the manner of *Gloriana*, is especially effective.

There was one great mystery about the VOA perfor-

mance: it was sung in Spanish rather than translated back into Musgrave's English. This was all the odder given that the audience seemed entirely English-speaking, and frustrating in that Musgrave's skill ensured that, whatever was going on in the orchestra — this is an invigoratingly noisy opera, with big, bold vocal writing — every word came across clearly in the 1,500-seat Harrison Opera House. But perhaps the obscurity of a foreign language was tactful: the recurring exhortations to revolt would be music to the ears of few operatic audiences nowadays.

For the marvelously incisive playing of the orchestra under Mark and the energetic choral singing, nothing but praise. Garrett-Groag's production, in an elaborate permanent set by John Conklin, was on the busy side (much mugging, shoulder-clutching and mimed conversation for the chorus). I could imagine the work being twice as effective in a more spare staging. Stephen Guggenheim coped valiantly with a title role plainly written for a more robust tenor: Douglas Nagel glowered effectively as Santander. Bolívar's main antagonist, Amy Johnson cut a glamorous figure as his mistress.

Now it's Scottish Opera's turn: Musgrave is far too important a composer not to be honoured in her own country.

Old lessons set in stone

Peter Strafford on an exhibition which sheds new light on the building of an ancient monument

THERE are some humbling conclusions for the 20th century to be drawn from an exhibition in London on the building of the Parthenon in Athens. The Parthenon was built some 2,400 years ago, between 477BC and 438BC, and "From Pentelicon to the Parthenon" consists of drawings by Manolis Korres, the architect and engineer in charge of restoring it, of how he believes the marble was quarried, transported to the Acropolis, shaped and erected.

Quite apart from artistic considerations, Korres writes in the catalogue: "It is a simple matter to prove that it would be impossible today to complete construction in so perfect a manner in the astounding time of eight years." Builders today might have petrol-driven vehicles and electric cranes, but they would not have the ancient tools with their unique quality or the "incredible technical prowess" of the stonemasons of 5th-century Athens.

Just how big the task was is vividly depicted in

Korres's drawings. He shows the quarry-workers struggling with wedges, hammers and crowbars to dislodge the huge masses of marble in the quarries on the slopes of Mount Pentelicon, north-east of Athens; the initial shaping of a capital: the process of hauling it along a slipway; and the long, slow journey on a special cart pulled by mules, taking it across the plain and up through the streets of ancient Athens.

Finally there was the precise carving of every piece of marble on the building site, to ensure that it fitted exactly, and its erection by means of a system of pulleys and cranes.

Korres has inspected the ancient quarries and the patterns of the marble seams; identified the ancient tools; and examined the marble blocks on the Acropolis. He sheds new light on an extraordinary achievement.

● "From Pentelicon to the Parthenon" is at the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, 60 Brook St, London W1 (0171-99 98 26), until February 27



Building the Parthenon, as imagined and drawn by Manolis Korres, the architect in charge of restoration

CONCERTS: A chamber recital to celebrate Tippett's ninetieth birthday; Purcell meets a favourite of Louis XIV

NO STRING quartet is closer to the music of Sir Michael Tippett than the Lindsay Quartet. Having brought his Fourth and Fifth Quartets into the world; they must know all there is to know about the interpretative priorities and the technical problems involved. So it was generous of them, in celebrating the composer's ninetieth birthday at Manchester University, to devote their concert to the first three in the series, all of which were written long before the Lindsay String Quartet was even thought of.

There was no lack of commitment in their approach to any of them but, to judge by the outstanding quality of its performance, No 3 is the one that impresses them most. Or perhaps, in its length and its complexity, it is the one that frightens them most. But certainly, the sustained concentration which informed every line of the counterpoint and which kept the textures uncommonly fresh and clear,

Trio for string quartet

Lindsay Quartet
Manchester University

held the ear in thrall throughout the five movements.

If the same ear was rather less tempted to get involved in the String Quartet No 1, it was not because of any significant failure in the Lindsay's playing. Though far from being Tippett's first effort in the medium, it is an unconvincing piece: the opening Allegro, though a later replacement for the first two movements of the original version, still sounds

like Tippett struggling to escape from Debussy.

In spite of a highly expressive Lento cantabile and a finale where the characteristic rhythmic personality springs into life, this is one of those works destined never to come right, whatever the revisions it goes through.

The Second Quartet, which is entirely consistent in style and, in its creative freshness and melodic abundance, the most appealing of the five, provoked a correspondingly idiomatic and clearly purposeful performance.

But it was in the Third, where Tippett so dangerously challenges both Beethoven and Bartók and so triumphantly transcends them, that the Lindsay Quartet found the quality of sound, the precision in colouring and sensitivity in balance, to match the emotional dedication which had been so movingly apparent throughout the concert.

GERALD LARNER

Talent no match for genius

Ex Cathedra
St John's,
Smith Square

AFTER just a month of celebration, there is almost too much Purcell and not enough of everything else. That seemed to be the premise of the Birmingham-based choir Ex Cathedra's programme for its excellent concert on Saturday. Why not try something different?

Well, for one thing it is quite impossible to have too much Purcell. And for another, the juxtaposition of Purcell's music with that of Michel-Richard de Lalande in the first half of this concert proved that de Lalande, the composer most favoured by Louis XIV in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, comes a rather distant second in any comparison.

That may have been the point that Jeffrey Skidmore, the choir's director, was intending to reinforce all along. The earlyish (1684) Te-

Deum heard here had its moments: some appealingly sinewy solos and ensembles were taken well by this excellent choir's best young members (watch out for a smooth-voiced tenor called Stephen Harrold). But its proportions were vast, its mien grandiose, its idiom very much in the ceremonial mould of the Versailles style cultivated by Lully.

For the human touch, one has to look elsewhere. The Italian Antonio Caldara, roughly contemporaneous, showed how to deal with the same text in his magnificent but admirably terse setting for two choirs and a colourful

band including trumpets, trombones and oboes. There is in this piece a sense of joyful flamboyance utterly appropriate to the words.

Yet even Caldara cannot match the sense of personality, the human warmth and dignity, of Purcell's famous English setting of these words.

In mourning, just as in celebration, Purcell's tone, the balance he achieved between formality and intimacy, was always right, as Ex Cathedra's ritualistic performance of the anthem "Thou knowest, Lord" and the March and Canzona from the Funeral Music for Queen Mary, proved here. And again those great penitential settings "Remember not, Lord" and, especially, "Hear My Prayer" turned a large audience into collective, meditative silence.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Brewed by Artangel
Commissioned by Beck's



TATSUO MIYAJIMA RUNNING TIME

February 1 to March 5
Queen's House, Greenwich, London SE10 9EF

From bank managers to movie stars, deaf people are taking up their rightful roles in the community, Rodney Hobson reports

Breaking down the sound barriers

Deaf people are claiming their place in the working world. Despite the prejudices of potential employers, deaf and partly deaf people are turning up in responsible jobs such as bank or shop management. They can operate cash checkouts by lip-reading or hold down clerical jobs by typing messages.

The main barrier is that neither the deaf nor those with unimpaired hearing are used to living alongside each other. Since 1981, any deaf child has been entitled to go through the mainstream education system with support rather than attend a special school for the deaf. But the deaf community is itself divided, with a number of organisations such as the British Deaf Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and the National Deaf-Blind League representing different needs. Views on education are equally varied.

There is, however, a growing belief that deaf children should be treated as normal wherever practicable, and that they should be seen as being deaf and not stupid. Eric McNeil of Breakthrough, a Birmingham-based organisation which works to integrate deaf people into the community, says: "Deaf people are just as intelligent as those who can hear, but they need more time and input. They need considerably longer to master the same skills as hearing people."

Mr McNeil is a great believer in early mixing. "The philosophy of integration starts at school," he says. "It breeds a familiarity between deaf and hearing children. The earlier that deafness is seen as an obstacle rather than a disability, the better." He argues that in special schools for the deaf, standards of attainment tend to be lowered. Less is expected of the deaf — so they achieve less.

Breakthrough provides training programmes to help the deaf to find their role in employment. Mr McNeil says: "Deaf people come to us with very low confidence and very low levels of literacy. Many cannot read. It is a legacy that



Roger Broad: a great believer in early mixing

is not going to help them in the workplace. Communication skills are very weak for deaf people."

As a communications group, BT decided to help and to encourage deaf people to succeed in work. For five of the past six years it has sponsored the BT Young Deaf Achievers awards, which are organised by Deaf Accord, a consortium of deaf consumer organisations — the British Deaf Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and SENSE, with the support of Hearing Concern and the National Deaf-Blind League.

BT backed the first two events, then stood down for a year. Roger Broad, BT's head of sponsorship and advertising, joined the company in the intervening year and he was keen to restore the relationship — but on a new basis.

"The first two years were seen as a charitable donation,

a straight payment to encourage good deeds and create goodwill. I felt there was much more potential," he says. "These awards fit in with our whole programme to put something back into the community."

BT aims to put 0.5 per cent of pre-tax profits into charitable and community work. That means that about £15 million a year is available, enough to support a range of projects in the arts and the community.

Six key areas are targeted for support: people with disabilities, people in need, economic regeneration, education, environment and the arts. The sponsorship of the Young Deaf Achievers awards falls into the category of people in need.

Mr Broad says: "The awards show to the world that

in many cases young deaf people can achieve as well as hearing people. Employers should treat them the same. We also think the awards reinforce young deaf people's confidence in themselves."

He adds that there is nothing incongruous in a communications group helping people whose powers of communication are limited. He points out that, as with hearing people, the phone is the only alternative to face-to-face contact in dealing with the outside world.

Through its action for disabled customers unit, BT provides a range of products and services for people with disabilities or special needs. The Claudius portable speech synthesizer, for example, was developed to give greater independence to people with speech difficulties.

Mr Broad says: "It is part of the role of any company to look at all its customers and not just to take the easy route."

BT's commitment to the deaf extends to funding training courses for interpreters, who are in desperately short supply. It also sponsors "signed" theatrical performances where an interpreter stands at the side of the stage and communicates the words to those for whom even the induction loop is inadequate.

Technology is providing increasing help for the deaf. Those with sufficient hearing to use a hearing aid can follow plays and films through the induction loop, which transmits directly into the hearing-aid box. Induction couplers can be added to telephone handsets.

Those without hearing can communicate over the phone with the aid of a minicom, a system of typing messages that can be seen at the other end of the line. BT funds the Typetalk service provided by the British Deaf Association. A caller speaks to the operator, who transmits the message via a minicom to the deaf person.

In the business world, the introduction of teleconferencing, where participants can see each other via satellite link, means lip-reading is possible.



Jenni Cunningham, the northeast finalist, won a long battle against meningitis to return to teaching special-needs children

Several actors are following in the footsteps of Eric Sykes, the comedian who carved out a television career despite being unable to hear his cues. Mike Newall, the director of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, after some thought agreed to offer the part of Hugh Grant's deaf brother to a deaf actor.

He chose 25-year-old David Bower and was not disappointed. Mr Bower's appearance has made him Britain's best-known deaf actor and helped him to win a nomination for the BT Young Deaf Achievers 1994 awards as the winner from Wales, one of ten BT regions in the UK to provide a finalist.

Mr Newall said after the audition: "He is a fine actor and has a sense of mystery about him. There is a lot beneath the surface, which is probably to do with the battles he has had to fight."

Mr Bower began his career by working with youth theatres and small theatre companies. His breakthrough came last year when he was chosen to play alongside other deaf actors and actresses in *Titus Andronicus* at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, Manchester.

London has at least one professional actress — Charlotte Moulton-Thomas. Aged 28, she counts *Casualty* among her TV appearances, and on stage she has played in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Murder in the Cathedral*. Miss Moulton-Thomas has overcome her handicap with enthusiasm and energy. She went to art college and has completed a course at the London School of Puppetry, as well as an arts management course at Birkbeck College.

Alexandra Phillips, the 16-year-old finalist from the southern Home Counties, is training to be a ballet dancer. Despite having only 25 per cent hearing in each ear, she has gained admittance to a



David Bower: a role in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*

three-year course to study professional dancing, gaining one of only 30 places in competition with hundreds of applicants. As part of the National Youth Ballet, she has performed solo at Sadler's Wells and the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Jenni Cunningham, the northeast finalist, 25, won her long battle against the meningitis that left her profoundly deaf to return to working in an inner-city school. With the help of lip reading and a cochlear implant, she is teaching children with special needs at Bankside Primary School at Harehills in Leeds.

The Northern Ireland finalist is 17-year-old Catherine Cassidy, who finds time to coach youngsters in the Irish game of Camogie while studying for her A-level GCSEs.

Lee Taylor, the 20-year-old Midlands finalist, was deaf and blind for the first year of his life. Though numerous operations gave him some sight, he has never acquired the ability to speak intelligibly, and he remains profoundly deaf. Through sheer perseverance, he learnt to swim and ride a bicycle and finally left home to go to college. He works at Foster's, a clothes store in Tamworth, Stafford-

shire. He secured the job by impressing his boss on a work-placement scheme.

A rare form of tuberculosis left the southwest finalist, Darren Stevens, 18, deaf in one ear and 90 per cent deaf in the other, and suffering from tinnitus. He has written poetry and a one-act play which won a regional competition and was performed at Bath Theatre Royal.

Profound deafness has not prevented Robert Pattison from touring Europe with his brother, who is also deaf. Aged 19, and the northwest finalist, he is studying at Sheffield University and hopes to become an architect.

Gary Mackay, the Scottish finalist, is a glass blower with Calithness Glass, makers of decorative glassware. His employers say that he never needs to be told anything twice. The quality and quantity of his output is so high that he has been put in charge of ten glassblowers.

The northern Home Counties finalist, 20-year-old Ace Cobley, has been involved in the Friends of Young Deaf People (FYD) training programme and is working to become an ambassador, a volunteer qualified to represent FYD in the community. She coaches rugby to young deaf people and, after taking a management course at an adventure school in Cornwall, returned to qualify as an outdoor activity instructor. She is keen on sailing and hopes to become a qualified skipper. Meanwhile, she has begun a degree course in environmental sciences at Colchester University.

A special BT award goes to Rita Mistry, 24. Ms Mistry works in the accounts department of Coventry City Council, and uses a minicom, a telephone that enables deaf people to type their messages, which then appear on a screen at the other end of the line.

RODNEY HOBSON

On the Eric Sykes road to stardom

The regional finalists for the BT Young Deaf Achievers award

Congratulations

Communication is BT's business. Helping people with communication difficulties, of whatever kind, is a fundamental part of that business.

That is why we are proud to sponsor the BT Young Deaf Achievers 1994 Awards.

Our congratulations and best wishes for the future to this year's winners and to all the nominees.

Recognising and rewarding personal achievement is at the heart of our business.

BT
In the community



Can public attitudes be changed? Leaders in their field give some advice

How to be a roaring success

Don't treat deaf people as if they are dumb, says Evelyn Glennie, the world's leading solo percussionist.

Ms Glennie wants to be known for her music, not her deafness. But her outstanding musical talent is coupled with a determination to achieve in a field where the ignorant would assume that hearing is essential. At the Royal Academy of Music, her tutors were concerned about her hopes of becoming a solo percussionist "because there had never been a deaf one before. But they learnt that once I decide on something I just go for it."

The public have plenty of misconceptions about deaf people, Ms Glennie says, and patience and understanding are needed on both sides. Rebecca Macree, ranked twelfth in the world in women's squash, can lip-read extremely well, but frequently has to insist that people talk to her rather than write their message or simply ignore her. Ms Macree, who has been profoundly deaf since birth, came into squash only nine years ago, at the age of 14. She encountered animosity from officials and other players who did not believe that she could play without hearing the ball or the score. But now she is well-known, she finds that officials are sympathetic.

The perception of "deaf and dumb" was brought home to Kerena Marchant when she left university. She had planned a career in law until she discovered that deaf people were not permitted to become barristers. Her jobcentre offered her a job in a chicken factory.

Ms Marchant is now a series producer on schools broadcasting at the BBC. She admits that her career progress has been slower than that of hearing colleagues. The BBC has a strong equal opportunities policy "but you cannot change people's attitudes overnight". Penny Broomfield has also had problems in getting promotion at management level. Employers are often stuck on the "what if she can't?" mental ruminations, says Ms Broomfield, who is now a partner in the consultancy Acorn Business Solutions.

"I found heavy emphasis was put on the need to use a phone rather than focusing on



Evelyn Glennie: outstanding talent

what I could do. I suspect that employers were more concerned about the impressions I would create with their customers."

Common failings among the hearing public, according to Ms Broomfield, include "simplifying the subject as if I had an IQ of ten and talking like a goldfish, which makes it more difficult to lip-read."

She finds that foreigners, however, are sympathetic to the problems of deaf people, probably because they have to listen hard to understand what is being said. Deaf people should help themselves to achieve their potential by taking advantage of all the aids on offer, Ms Marchant says. The Department of Employment's Access to Work scheme funds her minicom and an assistant to interpret for her meetings when she is directing a programme. Ms Marchant also has Skipper, a "hearing dog for the deaf", which alerts her to phone calls

and fire alarms. During a recent visit she and Skipper made to Northern Ireland, the dog alerted her to a bomb scare.

How can public attitudes to deafness be changed? Ms Marchant believes that legislation is the only way to ensure that deaf people will have equal opportunities in the hearing world, although the Disability Bill, now going through Parliament, leaves much to be desired, she says.

Ms Macree believes that experiencing a problem brings understanding. She suggests that children could be "deaf for a day", and that sign-language should be part of the school curriculum. Ms Macree would like to see an annual National Deaf Awareness event, including all television programmes soundless but subtitled and dealing with deaf issues.

Deaf people who have succeeded in the hearing worlds of music, sport, business and the media give confidence to others in the deaf community and help to change attitudes to deafness in society. Ms Glennie's encouragement to other deaf people is unequivocal: "My music," she says, "says everything."

WIDGET FINN

Court action in Australia sends former sprinter's valuation soaring

Sangster displays faith in Danehill with £6.7m deal

By JULIAN MUSCAT

IN A scene owing more to Hollywood than racing, Danehill, a nine-year-old thoroughbred stallion, was valued at \$18.2 million (£11.45 million) when he changed hands early on Monday morning in an impromptu auction between two men on opposite sides of a deserted court room in New South Wales, Australia.

The circumstances surrounding Danehill's sale, which should appeal to Tinseltown's scriptwriters, provoked Coolmore Stud, the Irish breeding station part-owned by Robert Sangster, into making the winning bid at the expense of Arrowfield Group Ltd, Australia's largest breeding conglomerate and part-owner of Danehill until its partnership with Coolmore was dissolved amid irreconcilable differences.

The financial muscle-flexing between two of the world's most prolific breeding operations rekindled memories of the meteoric and ultimately disastrous rise in bloodstock prices more than a decade ago. There is irony in the fact that Sangster, whose financial resources initially fuelled that boom, is now responsible for the lion's share of the \$10.69 million (£6.7 million) that must pass to Arrowfield on March 1. Sangster will consider it a sound investment.

The bidding duel was overseen by Sir Laurence Street, a former deputy governor of New South Wales, after the two parties could not agree breeding arrangements governing the stallion. For the last five years, Danehill has commuted between the hemispheres. He serviced mares for five months at lucrative rates in Ireland before doing the same in Australia.

Arrowfield argued that Danehill, the Haydock Sprint Cup winner who was syndicated into 40 shares on his

retirement from racing in 1989, has earned a rest. Coolmore, however, wanted him back by January, and staff at the Irish farm felt there was no cause for alarm: its syndicate, with 20 shares, owned exactly half of Danehill. The balance was held by Arrowfield.

But that proved erroneous when it emerged late last year that Arrowfield had been clandestinely buying shares in the stallion through a London-based bloodstock agent. Much to Coolmore's surprise, Arrowfield had acquired 60 per cent of Danehill when the

dispute surfaced in Australia before Christmas.

Further poignancy is added by the fact that Arrowfield leases the land on which it operates from Coolmore, which bought the tract from Arrowfield for \$9.1 million (£4.35 million) in 1990, partly to help Arrowfield raise funds for Danehill's purchase. Not surprisingly, Arrowfield is to move its operation when the lease expires next year.

The 1989 agreement between Coolmore and Arrowfield to buy stallions was also dissolved. Coolmore's representative in Australia, Michael Kirwan, put on a brave face. "We are absolutely delighted to secure Danehill and further Coolmore's relationship with the Australian breeding industry," Kirwan

said, adding: "It is time for each party to go its own way."

The £11.45 million value placed on Danehill is more than three times that received by Shaikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum for the sale of Erhaab, last year's Derby winner, to Japanese interests. This reflects the stallion's popularity in both hemispheres and establishes Danehill as by some distance the most valuable stallion in Australia.

Communing stallions between hemispheres runs contrary to convention. The majority of British stud farms rest their stallions after a breeding season lasting five months, which may involve up to a hundred mares.

The picture is different in Ireland, a nation renowned for its pioneering work with thoroughbreds. No fewer than 14 of the 26 stallions commuting between Australia and the northern hemisphere last year were residents of Coolmore. But there is no evidence to suggest any harm results from such arrangements, as Danehill has illustrated by his success in both hemispheres.

Coolmore must now set about recouping its investment. Danehill's covering fee for 1995 is private, although he is sure to be well patronised by breeders. And by re-syndicating the stallion among European breeders, Coolmore can retrieve part of its investment and minimise the risk. Whether or not Coolmore pursues that option, the price it paid constitutes remarkable belief in Danehill's ability to sire champion racehorses.

As for Danehill, he is now about to embark on his eleventh consecutive breeding stint. He must have surely reflected, after his recent arrival from Australia, that it is indeed a long, long way to Tipperary, where Coolmore Stud is based.



Danehill's success at stud has put a price of more than £11 million on him

Dettori to ride in Dubai Challenge

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

FRANKIE DETTORI will miss the opening day of the turf flat season at Doncaster so that he can ride in the prestigious Dubai International Jockeys' Challenge. Britain's champion jockey heads a star-studded cast of riders from around the world who will assemble at Nad Al Sheba racecourse in Dubai on March 23. The third running of the Challenge will be contested over four races with ten jockeys representing Europe, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Australia and the United States.

Dettori and Thierry Jarnet, champion jockey in France for the past three seasons, will team up for Europe while the U.S. winners of the team trophy for the past two years, will be represented by Pat Day and Chris McCarron, winner of the individual title last year. Mick Dittman, winner of more than 3,000 races, rides for Australia, along with the New Zealand-born Grant Cookley.

The evening fixture will be screened live by Channel 4 and fit into their coverage of the opening day at Doncaster's Lincoln meeting. Dettori will fly back from Dubai in time to ride at Doncaster on March 24.

Mark Dwyer has decided to appeal against the two-day ban imposed for excessive use of the whip by stewards at Fairyhouse on Sunday. "I felt I was a little hard done by. I think I have got a fair chance of getting the ban overturned," the Irish-born free-lance jockey said.

The abandonment of racing at Nottingham yesterday deprived Nicky Henderson of the opportunity to run Barna Boy but did not stop punters backing the exciting novice chaser for the Arkle Chase at Cheltenham. William Hill cut the seven-year-old from 14-1 to 8-1. Klairon Davis, impressive winner of the Baileys Arkle Perpetual Challenge Cup at Fairyhouse on Sunday, was also trimmed a point to 5-1.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Edinburgh
Going: good to soft
1.20 (2m) hurdle, 1. Thornton Gate (J. Weyer, 12.50) 2. Up in Flames (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 3. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 4. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 5. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 6. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 7. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 8. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 9. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 10. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 11. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 12. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 13. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 14. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 15. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 16. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 17. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 18. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 19. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 20. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 21. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 22. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 23. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 24. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 25. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 26. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 27. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 28. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 29. The Boy (P. J. Hynes, 11.50) 30. The Boy (P. J. 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Martin gets reprieve after video review

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND PETER BALL

REFEREES are human after all. Paul Danson yesterday reduced the sending off of Alvin Martin, the West Ham United defender, to a booking after reconsidering his controversial decision in the FA Cup quarter-final match against Sheffield Wednesday at Upton Park nine days ago.

Martin, 30, is in his nineteenth season with the east London club and, over the years, has deservedly earned a reputation of rarely resorting to illegal means to stop opponents. He was last sent off in 1985.

However, in the tenth minute of West Ham's 2-0 defeat, he was shown the red card for clumsily bringing down Mark Bright, the Wednesday striker. Television re-

played showed that Martin had clearly lost his footing before the challenge on the halfway line, and inadvertently fallen across Bright. "There was no intent," he said. "I simply slipped and Bright seemed to run into me."

After also reviewing it on tape, Danson, a self-employed carpenter and builder from Leicester, withdrew the sending off, which was for "serious foul play" and carried a three-match suspension. Though still collecting a caution, Martin is now free to continue playing in West Ham's struggle against relegation.

"Having seen the incident again, I felt it was appropriate to change the card to a yellow," Danson said. "I had the advantage of looking at it from a different angle and it didn't appear anywhere near as severe as I had first thought. I would be prepared to do this again and I'm sure most other referees would as well."

After Kevin Scott, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, was sent off for fighting with Les Ferdinand, the Queens Park Rangers forward, during the 1-1 draw at White Hart Lane on October 8, Peter Jones, the referee, from Loughborough, subsequently changed his mind over Scott's offence, having looked at the

video, and it was downgraded to a booking.

Blackburn Rovers have had occasion to complain about refereeing decisions this season, notably in their two defeats by Manchester United, but they still hold the whip hand in the FA Cup quarter-final match against Sheffield Wednesday at Upton Park nine days ago.

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played showed that Martin had clearly lost his footing before the challenge on the halfway line, and inadvertently fallen across Bright. "There was no intent," he said. "I simply slipped and Bright seemed to run into me."



Male, the world champion, has become a motorcycle courier to help finance his high-cost rackets career

Kicking up a racket for world crown

Sally Jones finds rivals building up for more confrontations over world rackets title

Neil Smith, the British professional, who two years ago came close to taking James Male's world rackets crown, is back in action after a hideous eye injury that threatened to end his career. Smith, 31, the head professional at the exclusive New York Racquet Club, narrowly lost in the final of the Henderson Professionals' championship at the weekend, his first tournament since the injury last August. But he starts as favourite for the Lacoste Open championship this week.

Smith had been due to challenge for Male's world championship this month, but his hopes were shattered by the freak accident during a practice session.

"I mislaid a backhand and the ball ricocheted off the frame of my racket and straight into my left eye without touching the sides. I knew I'd done something really bad. It was pretty painful and I couldn't see a thing."

The injury turned out to be a potentially dangerous sub-retinal haemorrhage, blistering under the retina, with large clots of blood in the iris, which was partially detached and a mass of blood in the normally clear vitreous humour within the eyeball. The only treatment was rest. It was a traumatic time for Smith, a powerful, elegant stylist who until then had been widely fancied to dethrone Male. "I spent three weeks lying on my right side, totally still 24 hours a day, coughing up blood as it began to drain out of my eye

into my nose and throat. I thought I'd never play rackets again."

"It was infuriating because one day the eye would start to clear, the next it would go cloudy again. I tried to stay cheerful though and after five weeks I was working out on an exercise bike. A few weeks later, I started hitting a squash ball but couldn't see a racket ball at all. Towards the end of December, I suddenly began to focus properly; it was a great moment. Although I lost to Peter Brake, the Queen's club professional in the Henderson championship at the weekend, I'm hitting the ball really well. I just need more match practice."

Rackets is the world's fastest ball game and the ball cracks around the high black-walled court at speeds of up to 150mph. It is hard and smooth enough to fit into the eye socket and several people have lost an eye at rackets. Not surprisingly, Smith will not step onto court without a wrap-around perspex eye shield.

"It was a miracle I got my full sight back and the doctors said I'd been a pinhead away from permanent damage which really puts my hopes and fears for the world challenge into perspective," Smith said.

The challenge has been postponed until the beginning of April, when Smith will meet Male in a head-to-head: the first best-of-seven game at Chicago's Male has not en-

joyed a classic build-up to his defence, either, spending part of last year trying out as a baseball batter for the Atlanta Braves. Despite encouraging reactions to his natural ball skills, he has decided that at 30, he is just too old to stand a chance of reaching the big time. After almost a year's travelling, he is restoring his depleted finances in hazardous fashion as a part-time motorcycle despatch rider for a Hackney firm while looking for a job in sports sponsorship. "It can be pretty hairy," the irrepressible Male said. "Your life passes before your eyes a few times every day. The other riders are all pretty tough nuts. I'm the only public schoolboy and I get plenty of stick, but we have a great laugh."

Male's biggest problem is lack of funds. In the next two months alone, playing and training most days, he's likely to get through up to 35 rackets (at around £60 a set). With coaching fees, court hire, work out at around £25 an hour, it is making him question how long he can afford to keep competing at this level.

Male, an old Marlburian, is training with Alan Watson, the fitness coach to the England rugby squad at the BIMAL conditioning centre at Hammersmith, west London. When he was first assessed three years ago, Male was judged as fit as Linford Christie and this, allied to his naked aggression and unorthodox double-fisted style, should ensure a memorable world championship.



Smith wears a guard for his eyes even in practice

Damage to mainsail holds back Briton in BOC race

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

LESS than 48 hours after the BOC Challenge fleet left Sydney on the third stage of the solo round-the-world race around Cape Horn to Punta del Este, Uruguay, a 60-knot gale shook the leaders and Nigel Rowe, of Britain, was forced to head for Ulladulla to make repairs.

A sudden change in winds from the light conditions experienced at the start, had split the mainsail on his 49th yacht, *Sky Catcher*, from luff to leech, Rowe said yesterday. He was still, however, making 10 knots under headsail alone.

Another to be caught out was David Adams, the overall leader in Class 2. "The gales just about wiped me out," he said. "It was a vicious storm. The headsail tore and the furler got caught and tried to rip the mast out."

Leading the fleet is Christophe Auguin in the 60ft French entry, *Sceta Calabrese*. He holds a 54-mile lead over his fellow Frenchman, Jean Luc van den Heede. Giovanni Soldini leads Class 2 and Niall Vaughan, the leading British entry, is in fourth place in class.

A lack of wind forced the postponement of the Louis Vuitton America's Cup challenge trials off San Diego yesterday but Dennis Conner's defence candidate, *Stars & Stripes*, made the most of the light airs to score a convincing victory over Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* which suffered from a broken winch for the second day.

Bill Koch, whose all-women crew aboard *America* enjoyed a lay-day yesterday, remains unimpressed, despite the fact that his yacht is now last in the trials. "I thought *Young America* and *Stars & Stripes* would be better than they are. Both are configured for seven knots or less of wind."

"But the probability of that happening during the final trials is only 35 per cent of the time. We will rise to the top when our new boat arrives for the fourth round of trials," he said confidently.

AMERICA'S CUP: Louis Vuitton Challenge trials. Second round: Overall standings. Team New Zealand, 2nd; *Stars & Stripes*, 3rd; *Young America*, 4th; *Stars & Stripes*, 5th; *Stars & Stripes*, 6th; *Stars & Stripes*, 7th; *Stars & Stripes*, 8th; *Stars & Stripes*, 9th; *Stars & Stripes*, 10th; *Stars & Stripes*, 11th; *Stars & Stripes*, 12th; *Stars & Stripes*, 13th; *Stars & Stripes*, 14th; *Stars & Stripes*, 15th; *Stars & Stripes*, 16th; *Stars & Stripes*, 17th; *Stars & Stripes*, 18th; *Stars & Stripes*, 19th; *Stars & Stripes*, 20th; *Stars & Stripes*, 21st; *Stars & Stripes*, 22nd; *Stars & Stripes*, 23rd; *Stars & Stripes*, 24th; *Stars & Stripes*, 25th; *Stars & Stripes*, 26th; *Stars & Stripes*, 27th; *Stars & Stripes*, 28th; *Stars & Stripes*, 29th; *Stars & Stripes*, 30th; *Stars & Stripes*, 31st; *Stars & Stripes*, 32nd; *Stars & Stripes*, 33rd; *Stars & Stripes*, 34th; *Stars & Stripes*, 35th; *Stars & Stripes*, 36th; *Stars & Stripes*, 37th; *Stars & Stripes*, 38th; *Stars & Stripes*, 39th; *Stars & Stripes*, 40th; *Stars & Stripes*, 41st; *Stars & Stripes*, 42nd; 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Australia's turn to suffer after sliding to defeat

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

THE headline was familiar, the subject matter scarcely credible. "Test Flops", screamed the tabloid back pages of Australia this morning, and for once it was not the hapless, hopeless Poms who were the target, but those evidently superior beings who had begun to believe in their own publicity only to discover, on Monday, that it was bogus after all.

Those responsible for the Australia cricket team, who have been the target of the most vicious and unrelenting attacks in the history of the game, are now being asked to resign. They would also prefer not to dwell, in public at least, on their eccentric batting under pressure, while the issue of Australia's persistent failures, when set a fourth-innings target, is virtually taboo.

Yet on the morning after the night before, these aspects all demanded an airing. Take nothing away from England's cricket, which, if only for a day, was compelling. But the Australians' mood, throughout Adelaide, had been less than intent. They played like a team mentally on their way to the Caribbean, believing the job at hand to be complete. They have had a rude awakening.

The talk today was of burn-out, much being made of the fact that the Australians have been on the road solidly since the end of August. Let us not, however, accept any of this as an excuse for the minor miracle on Monday. England's regulars have scarcely stopped travelling for more than 12 months now, and the fact that they could barely raise a side for Adelaide was a

symptom of overwork, as much as it was a measure of the merit of victory.

If Australia had won or drawn in Adelaide, settling the series, McDermott and Warne might wisely have been rested here in Perth, when the last Test begins on Friday. But they will have to front up again now and they were among the players who sat stony-faced on the flight from Adelaide yesterday while, behind them, England supporters raucously cheered newsreel replays of the Australian collapse.

Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming, the Australia fast bowlers, were yesterday left out of the party to travel to New Zealand for a one-day tournament to guarantee their availability for the tour to the West Indies in March and April.

SQUAD: M.A. Taylor (captain), M.J. Slater, D.C. Boon, M.E. Waugh, S.R. Waugh, G.S. Blewett, R. Ponting, A. Watson, S.K. Warne, P. Phillips, J. Angell, T.B.A. May, G.D. McGrath.

If there is a downside to all this, and it is not being churlish to raise it, there is a risk that England's honour in this series will be used in high places as evidence that there is nothing structurally wrong with our game.

It was, however, only a week ago that Iain Sproule, a government minister, was in Adelaide charged with investigating the cause of our cricketing decline; that Bob Willis, a former England captain, was issuing his personal blueprint for a drastically

restructured game and that there was murky talk among prominent players, past and present, of breakaway groups, television-led cricket and a terminally messy destruction of the county system.

Such profound concern, such radical speculation, is not to be abandoned after one perverse result and nor should it be if the series is now squared. The problems remain, rooted deep within the constitution of the English game and identified with candour and clarity in a letter to *The Times*, last week, by Raman Subba Row, the former chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board.

"It needs a drastic structural reorganisation," Subba Row wrote, "resulting in the parent running the subsidiaries rather than vice-versa as at present." Precisely so. But the degree of altruism required of the counties, to hand on their power to an elected management team, will, as Subba Row fears, defeat any such initiative.

For now, then, it must be sufficient to rejoice in the competitive climax of a series that promised no such tension. It is to be hoped that the positive cricket displayed on Monday does not give way to self-defeating caution. As England discovered on Monday, even the borderline umpiring decisions go your way when supremacy is achieved.

Match referees are a different matter. Atherton has found himself in trouble with another, this time John Reid rather than his old *bête noire* Peter Burge, on two counts. Reid considers that he has breached the spirit of the game by presiding over unacceptably slow cricket in the field and he has told Atherton that he must control the body language of his players.

The fine imposed on Chris Lewis, for his finger-stabbing dismissal of McDermott on Monday, may appear excessive, but Reid believes that England players have been too free with their expressions. It would be a great shame, given the admirable example he sets in other ways, if Atherton was condemned as presiding over a pouting, undisciplined team, and nothing that has occurred so far this winter warrants such a charge. Atherton deserved his day in the sun yesterday, playing tennis and drinking wine in South Australia while his opponents, for a change, adopted the weary faces of a beaten side in flight.



Atherton has cause to smile yesterday after serving up victory in Adelaide

TEST MATCH AVERAGES

Australia										England									
Batting	M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	0	100	Batting	M	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	0	100
G.S. Blewett	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	J.P. Crawley	2	3	0	171	72	57.00	0	2	1
M.J. Slater	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	M.A. Atherton	1	0	0	395	88	39.50	0	4	3
M.A. Taylor	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	G.P. Thorpe	1	0	0	321	85	32.10	0	1	0
M.E. Waugh	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	G.A. Hick	1	0	0	204	56	20.40	0	1	0
A. Watson	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	G.A. Gough	1	0	0	204	56	20.40	0	1	0
D.C. Boon	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	M.W. Gough	1	0	0	198	51	19.80	0	1	0
S.R. Waugh	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	A.J. Stewart	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
T.B.A. May	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	P.A.J. DeFreitas	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
M.G. Blythe	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	D.E. Malcom	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
M.G. Blythe	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	A.H.C. Fraser	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
S.K. Warne	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	P.C.R. Tufnell	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
G.D. McGrath	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	M.J. McGee	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
P.E. Morkley	1	0	114	102	114.00	1	0	0	0	G.A. Hick	1	0	0	171	72	17.10	0	1	0
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	100	100	Bowling	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	100	100
S.K. Warne	226	1	73	480	25	19.20	6	71	2	C.C. Lewis	21	0	105	6	17.50	4	34	1	0
C.J. McDermott	204	6	47	596	26	22.92	6	53	3	A.R.C. Fraser	165	11	221	11	21.00	5	73	1	0
M.E. Waugh	41	0	115	5	28.00	0	0	0	0	D.Gough	182	33	425	20	21.25	6	49	1	0
D.W. Fleming	102	3	274	10	27.40	3	32	1	0	E.Malcom	126	25	300	11	25.45	4	30	1	0
P.E. Morkley	27	3	87	2	43.00	0	0	0	0	P.C.R. Tufnell	207	45	442	10	44.20	4	79	1	0
T.B.A. May	101	3	219	1	219.00	1	34	1	0	P.A.J. DeFreitas	133	21	413	9	45.86	2	66	1	0
G.S. Blewett	20	4	82	0	20.50	0	0	0	0	M.J. McGee	19	2	46	2	48.00	0	28	1	0
G.D. McGrath	29	6	101	0	33.69	0	0	0	0	G.A. Hick	24	5	74	1	24.00	1	20	1	0

Source: TCCBPA Cricket Record

Flower power gives Zimbabwe the edge

ANDY and Grant Flower compiled a 247-run partnership in Harare yesterday to put Zimbabwe in control on the opening day of the first Test match against Pakistan.

The pair's unbeaten stand, a record for any Zimbabwean wicket, began after the hosts had slumped to 42 for three. It left them 17 runs short of the highest stand by two brothers in Test cricket, posted by Ian and Greg Chappell for Australia against New Zealand in 1973-74.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe captain, hit 18 fours and a six in his unbeaten 142, his second Test century, while Grant, his younger brother,

ended the day on 88 not out with Zimbabwe on 289 for three. The pair exceeded the stand of 194 by Dave Houghton and Alistair Campbell against Sri Lanka last October.

Aqib Javed had earlier removed Mark Dekker, the Zimbabwe opener, and Houghton, for two and 23, respectively, while Wasim Akram accounted for Campbell, for one.

Another first for Zimbabwe was the inclusion of Henry Olonga, 18, a fast bowler and the first black player to represent the country.

Scoreboard, page 40

Unbeaten 99 by Hemp sweeps England A to victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID HEMP scored a superb unbeaten 99 and shared a stand of 155 with Alan Wells, the captain, to bring England A to victory by five wickets against India A in Calcutta yesterday. The win secured the three-match series 2-0.

Hemp's joy, however, was tainted a little by the news — conveyed to him as he was halfway through his second celebratory beer in the team hotel — that he had failed to complete a fifth first-class century.

He and Dominic Cork had scrambled back for a third run, taking Hemp to 100 not out on the scoreboard, but, as England's target of 254 had been reached when the pair completed two runs, A.V. Jayaprakash and S.K. Bansal, the umpires, later ruled that the third was invalid.

Hemp was disappointed, but said: "The most important thing is that we won. Some of the gloss had been taken off — but I should have hit the ball for four."

Hemp had been mobbed on the outfield by his delighted team-mates at the end of a hard-fought match which had looked like going India's way early on the final morning when England slumped to 82 for four.

However, then came the match-winning fifth-wicket stand between Wells and Hemp, whose innings included two sixes and 13 fours and which prompted John Barclay, the tour manager, to say: "I have not seen anyone hit the ball more sweetly than that."

John Emburey, in India with the A team as a bowling coach, added: "I think David's a very talented young player.

He played the spinners very well today, but I have always rated him as an especially fine player of quick bowling."

Yet he did not seem very rosy for Hemp, 24, in England A's previous match against India's Combined Universities side in Delhi. A

second innings duck left the Glamorgan batsman in despair, convinced that his chance of playing in the second international had gone.

Even when Mark Ramprakash's call-up to Australia gave him, after all, an international debut in Calcutta.

When it came to my turn for a bat, I backed away a bit, not trusting the surface, and this little bit bowled me. He laughed, but it was pretty embarrassing.

"Before this game, I had not made many runs on the tour, so to get a knock like this at a great stadium like Eden Gardens is unbelievable. It's a shame about not getting the 100 — but I won't make that mistake again!"

Wells, the Sussex captain, wants his side to complete a 3-0 series victory by winning in Chandigarh, where the

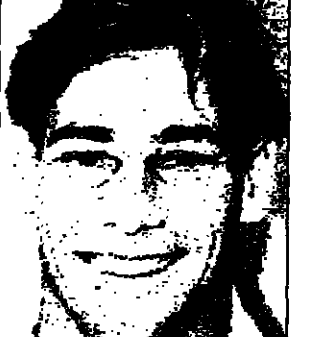
third international starts on Saturday.

He said: "The last England team to come to India, the 1993 senior side, were beaten 3-0. But we have done well because we have adapted quickly to Indian conditions and, in effect, have played them at their own game."

"We've also fought for everything. There is talent in English cricket — I have always said that — and if you show the right attitude, it will come out. This series victory has been achieved the hard way, because we lost the toss both here and in the first Test at Bangalore."

"This squad is full of players with a lot of strength of character — which is just what you need over here. I am just glad we have given people back home something more to cheer about to go with the senior team's win against Australia."

Wells, the Sussex captain, wants his side to complete a 3-0 series victory by winning in Chandigarh, where the



Hemp: missed century

SCOREBOARD

INDIA A: First Innings 216 (U Challenge 72) Second Innings 363 (N S Rhatore 127, R Dwyer 52)

ENGLAND A: First Innings 316 (A P Wells 83, J E R Gailan 77, P L K Ramprakash 4 for 59)

Second Innings

N V Knight at Yadav b Chaudhary 40

M P Williams b b Chaudhary 37

J E R Gailan at Yadav b Chaudhary 37

M Patel b b Chaudhary 35

A P Wells c Chaudhary b Chatterjee 65

D L Hemp not out 99

Cork not out 13

Extras (b, lb, nb, etc) 254

Total (all wickets) 254

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-77, 3-82, 4-82

5-227

BOWLING: Mankar 11-0-33-0, Ganguly 3-0-13-1, Chatterjee 15-1-42-1, Chaudhary 20-6-72-2, Bahuguna 30-11-69-1, David 1-0-1-0

Umpires: A.V. Jayaprakash and S.K. Bansal

Guinea pigs of the bomb

America Atomica. Radio 4, 8.45pm.

John Slater's investigation into a dream that has degenerated into a nightmare comes 50 years after America exploded the first atomic bomb in New Mexico. I have listened to highlights from the three episodes and have not slept well ever since. Tonight's opening instalment carries the subtitle *Guinea Pigs*. The label is all too apt — most of them black, and none of them aware of what was being done to them — were used to test how the human body stood up to doses of radiation. But for the detective work of a local reporter, these American horrors would have remained concealed behind a wall of official silence.

Victoria Station. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

All good things come to an end — and so must Steve Chambers's sequence of plays about a Yorkshire railway station in the 1930s. Right up to the end, the drama is piled on. Two runaway wagons are hurtling along the line towards the station in which a train is standing. Simultaneously, an inquiry is taking place into a derailment that has killed the station fireman. The future looks bleak indeed for the station master (Sean Baker). To help to lessen the tension, a merry tune skips through the action like a fugitive from a Gilbert and Sullivan overture. The technical presentation — hissing of steam, squealing of brakes — has been outstanding. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa L. Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat, and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier incl The Amazing Spiderman 7.00 Evening Session, presented by Whitley and Steve Lamacz 8.00 Ben from Last Week's Radio 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk 9 with Kathryn Roberts and Kate Rusby 9.00 World-Wide Concerts. Quimanti plays Andean music 8.30 Barber Shop Style the annual convention of the Ladies Association of British Barber Shop Singers in Harrogate (25) 9.00 Anita Shalla's Across Two Cultures in conversation with Bethel Michael Nye 9.30 Nigel Ogden: The Chorded Entertainers 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme with Jane Carr and Julian Womer, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine with Dana Madill, including at 10.35 EuroNews, 11.15 Natural History 12.00 Midday with Mark, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay with Moneydance 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, with Sybil Ruscoe 4.00 John Inverdale, Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 the day's sport in full 7.35 Trevor Brookings's Football Night 10.05 News Talk, with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours, with Carole Malone 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Offenbach (Overture, Orpheus in the Underworld), Granados (Danzas españolas No 5), 7.38 Villa-Lobos (Harmonica Concerto), Robert Bonfili: New York Chamber Symphony, Grieg, orch Sat (Norwegian Dance, Op 35 No 1), Purcell (A selection of songs), 8.32 Quartet Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 34 No 1; Lindsay Quartet) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Taverner, The Choir of Christ Church, Oxford, performs the Missa, Mater Choralis 9.45 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe including Enesco (Romanian Rhapsody in A, Op 11 No 1), Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor), Dufay (Missa: Ecce Ancilla Domini), Dubois (Toccata in G), 11.20 Tchaikovsky (Serenade for strings) 12.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, under Jane Glover performs Elgar (Overture, Cockaigne), Barry Guy (After the Rain), Britten (Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra) 1.00pm Birmingham Lunchtime Concert, live from Studio 1. Mayumi Saito, violin, Caroline Palmer, piano, play Bach (Sonata No 5 in F minor, BWV 1018), Schumann (Sonata in D minor, Op 121) 2.00 Scholes: Together — An Assembly for Schools 2.20 Time and Tune, Music Course 2 — Dig 2.40 Drama Workshop

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 7.55 Weather 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek 10.00-10.30 News: The Lying Game (FM only): Irma Kurtz asks why people lie, how they justify it, and what effects lies have on others 10.00 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only) (18/25) (r) 10.15 The Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenn Murray 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time: Pope Greenwood, Anne Swinfenden and Geoffrey Smith answer questions posed by members of the Herten and District Gardening Club (r) 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Rent: A second series of the award-winning sitcom by Lucy Flannery. Everyone, including the amateur DJ, is suffering from a cold. With Barbara Pinn, Patrick Barlow, Linda Polan, Toby Longworth, Vivienne Rochester 12.35 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with James Cox 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Victoria Station: See Crises 2.45 Unbroken Voices: I Want To Be Myself. Children from around the world talk about films, television, books and role models, and assess the

RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 92.4-94.8, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.8, LW 139, RADIO 5: 659kHz/433m; 909kHz/230m, LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3, 97.5, 97.7, 97.9, 98.1, 98.3, 98.5, 98.7, 98.9, 99.1, 99.3, 99.5, 99.7, 99.9, 100.1, 100.3, 100.5, 100.7, 100.9, 101.1, 101.3, 101.5, 101.7, 101.9, 102.1, 102.3, 102.5, 102.7, 102.9, 103.1, 103.3, 103.5, 103.7, 103.9, 104.1, 104.3, 104.5, 104.7, 104.9, 105.1, 105.3, 105.5, 105.7, 105.9, 106.1, 106.3, 106.5, 106.7, 106.9, 107.1, 107.3, 107.5, 107.7, 107.9, 108.1, 108.3, 108.5, 108.7, 108.9, 109.1, 109.3, 109.5, 109.7, 109.9, 110.1, 110.3, 110.5, 110.7, 110.9, 111.1, 111.3, 111.5, 111.7, 111.9, 112.1, 112.3, 112.5, 112.7, 112.9, 113.1, 113.3, 113.5, 113.7, 113.9, 114.1, 114.3, 114.5, 114.7, 114.9, 115.1, 115.3, 115.5, 115.7, 115.9, 116.1, 116.3, 116.5, 116.7, 116.9, 117.1, 117.3, 117.5, 117.7, 117.9, 118.1, 118.3, 118.5, 118.7, 118.9, 119.1, 119.3, 119.5, 119.7, 119.9, 120.1, 120.3, 120.5, 120.7, 120.9, 121.1, 121.3, 121.5, 121.7, 121.9, 122.1, 122.3, 122.5, 122.7, 122.9, 123.1, 123.3, 123.5, 123.7, 123.9, 124.1, 124.3, 124.5, 124.7, 124.9, 125.1, 125.3, 125.5, 125.7, 125.9, 126.1, 126.3, 126.5, 126.7, 126.9, 127.1, 127.3, 127.5, 127.7, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 128.5, 128.7, 128.9, 129.1, 129.3, 129.5, 129.7, 129.9, 130.1, 130.3, 130.5, 130.7, 130.9, 131.1, 131.3, 131.5, 131.7, 131.9, 132.1, 132.3, 132.5, 132.7, 132.9, 133.1, 133.3, 133.5, 133.7, 133.9, 134.1, 134.3, 134.5, 134.7, 134.9, 135.1, 135.3, 135.5, 135.7, 135.9, 136.1, 136.3, 136.5, 136.7, 136.9, 137.1, 137.3, 137.5, 137.7, 137.9, 138.1, 138.3, 138.5, 138.7, 138.9, 139.1, 139.3, 139.5, 139.7, 139.9, 140.1, 140.3, 140.5, 140.7, 140.9, 141.1, 141.3, 141.5, 141.7, 141.9, 142.1, 142.3, 142.5, 142.7, 142.9,

Cups that cheer amid the soapy sub-plots

Kevin Whately and Amanda Burton may have had their names at the top of the credits, but there was only one real star as ITV unleashed *Peak Practice* last night for a third assault on the ratings: the hot drinks. They were everywhere.

Poor Amanda Burton, who plays Dr Beth Glover, suffered the most. With her gallant husband, Dr Jack Kerruish, off being weedy and wonderful in a Peak District cave system, she spent most of the first half doing what's known in the profession as "hot chocolate acting". This involves clutching a mug (it must be a mug, a cup just won't do) to a chunky sweater and staring, in a wistfully attractive sort of way, out of a rain-streaked window. Additional marks are awarded for not getting chocolate stains on aforesaid chunky jumper, which for the full effect must be of an impractical pale hue. But the competition for Best

Comfort Acting award was hot — naturally. Down the road, Sylvia Syms as Isabel was wondering how to come to terms with terminal illness. I know, she thought, I'll make myself a hot drink and stare out of a rain-streaked window in a wistfully attractive, yet brave sort of way. There, feeling better already.

Round the corner, Simon Shepherd as Dr Will Preston was having another bad sub-plot day. No derring-do for him, just an awkward chat over the kitchen table with his soon-to-be former wife. Kitchen table? Sure enough, out came the mugs and the chunkiest jumper so far. The importance of the jumper cannot be over-emphasised — after all, you just never know when you might be stuck in a pothole with nothing to unravel, do you?

Back in the main storyline, it was becoming clear that while this episode was hardly going to ad-

vance the frontiers of television drama, its commitment to the British beverage industry was unstinting. As a heightened level of laddish banter indicated a growing crisis below ground, things were looking up on the surface. The local publican arrived with a van-load of flasks and foam cups.

But suddenly there was drama — a substantial part of the Peak District descended on the unfortunate Tommo (too much bantering, not enough hot-dressing) and there was panic brewing above ground too. "There's tea, but there's no sugar," the valiant Isabel, however, was not to be deterred, as she dispensed marital advice to the waiting Beth. "The first 25 years are the worst — I'm going to get myself a cup of tea."

Back in the caves, where the medical sound-effects had me rushing for the kitchen and the

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

sweater drawer, the breakthrough came suddenly. "We've got two injured," said the man with a lamp on his head. "We need two stretchers — uh and two teas, please." Shortly afterwards Tommo's sidekick was into motion, light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel mode. I had a nasty feeling that one tea was going to be enough. Earlier, ITV had increased its grip on the middle of the evening

with the return of *September Song*, one of the few comedies with a story complex enough to require a reprise of the happenings to date. Overly sentimental it may be, but this is a first-class piece of ensemble acting — which is just what you expect from Michael Williams, Diana Quick and Michael Angelis but which still, even after three series, comes as a bit of a surprise from Russ Abbot.

If love is never having to say you're sorry, then bitter-sweet comedy is always having to say you're sorry, as in "I'm sorry I shouldn't have said that," or "I'm sorry I walked off. I didn't mean to upset you." Last night, the most worrying variation on this "always apologise, always explain" theme was Todd's "I'm sorry you were not me take you to the airport". Katherine (Diana Quick) was off on an extended lecture tour of America. How the chaps get on in her absence remains to be seen.

but there must be a distinct danger that she'll come back to discover they've drowned in a sea of musical nostalgia.

A fate which would be far too good for Tilda Swinton, for whom I unexpectedly found I had developed a pathological hatred within ten minutes of *Visions of Heaven and Hell* (Channel 4) getting under way. Boiled alive in a bouillon of pseudo-scientific pretension might be more appropriate.

Now I know my anger should be directed at Mark Harrison, who wrote this technophobic tosh, so we'll chuck him in too. But it was still Swinton who delivered the lines in that flat, unthreatening, female voice which science-fiction films always give to their talking, and normally incoherent, computers. It was still Swinton who spouted such nonsense as: "Those that offer to equip us for a

better future are gentle, kind and likeable," or "For years we have regarded machines as an enemy, not an ally." Dream on Mark/Tilda, for years most of us kind, likeable lot were just saving up for one.

I scarcely thought it possible, but Visions was actually more pretentious than BBC 2's earlier stab at our relationship with technology, *White Heat*. From "millennium anxiety", Tilda dived us towards the inevitable Internet which, of course, reveals our deep-seated yearning for human company as society fragments.

Perhaps most disappointing, among the occasionally distinguished and occasionally thought-provoking talking heads, was Douglas Adams, who barked on about intelligent networks, buffer zones and something called the virtual epidemic. I think I preferred him when the answer was 42.

BBC1

- 6.00 *Business Breakfast* (93401)
- 7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (52045284)
- 9.05 *Kilroy* Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9523975)
- 10.00 *News* (CeeFax), regional news and weather (7566284) 10.05 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick* *Weekday magazine* presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (8310420)
- 12.00 *News* (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1441710) 12.05 *Pebble Mill* introduced by Ross King (s) (267352) 12.55 *Regional News* and weather (7579642)
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* (CeeFax) and weather (89159)
- 1.30 *Neighbours* (CeeFax) (s) (8257791) 1.50 *Timekeepers* Quiz presented by Bill Dod (s) (8256807)
- 2.15 *Alas Smith and Jones* Uplighthearted western adventures starring Pete Dink and Ben Murphy (s) (231062) 3.05 *Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave* High-speed cuisine (8289363)
- 3.20 *Brilliant Gardens* Rula Lenska visits Ness in the North of England (s) (7816994)
- 3.30 *Daffy Duck Double Bill* (9911178) 3.45 *Sick as a Parrot* Crossword puzzle game show (s) (9909333) 4.00 *Jackanory* Part one of *Tommy Niner* and the *Mystery Shipwreck*, by Tony Bradman (s) (4889907) 4.10 *Potterworld and Co* (s) (781951) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* with Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Howie Watkins (s) (5077449)
- 5.00 *Newsround* (3521604) 5.05 *Eldorado* Episode five of a six-part fantasy adventure (CeeFax) (s) (786343)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (s) (CeeFax) (s) (454913)
- 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (CeeFax) and weather (78)
- 6.30 *Regional News* magazines (30)
- 7.00 *This Is Your Life* Michael Aspel emotionally mugs another unsuspecting worthy (CeeFax) (s) (5823)
- 7.30 *On the Up* Comedy series starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire (s) (CeeFax) (s) (2) Wales: Winter in Wales
- 8.00 *How Do They Do That?* Desmond Lynam and Jenny Hull with music, magic and moments of human endeavour (CeeFax) (s) (776265)
- 8.45 *Points of View* (CeeFax) (s) (521130)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1888)
- 9.30 *The Private Life of Plants: The Social Struggle* (CeeFax) (s) (943517)
- 10.20 *Sportslight* with Desmond Lynam. Includes profiles of Jürgen Klinsmann and Sir Stanley Matthews, lightweight boxing action between Billy Scherer and Rafael Ruelas in Las Vegas and the European figure skating championship (s) (920448)
- 12.05am *FILM: The Mephisto Waltz* (1971) starring Alan Bates, Jacqueline Bisset and Cuzi Jurgens. Satanic seducer, music journalist who becomes gradually possessed after interviewing a dying pianist. Directed by Paul Verhoeven (CeeFax) (833111)
- 1.50 *Weather* (2724163)

Desmond Lynam presents the action (10.20pm)

BBC2

- 7.00 *Noddy* (s) (2306555) 7.10 *The Legend of Prince Valiant* (s) (CeeFax) (s) (3840284) 7.35 *Two in One* (CeeFax) (220077)
- 8.00 *Breakfast News* (CeeFax) and signposts (7565536)
- 8.15 *The Record* Robert Orchard reports on yesterday's business in Parliament (7476081)
- 8.35 *News Trail* The wildlife of Finland (s) (8253130)
- 9.00 *Daytime on Two* Educational programmes: Plus for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2505081) 2.00 *The Greedy Gargoyles* Gang (4102053) 2.05 *Spider* (4102987)
- 2.10 *Made By Man* The skill of the organ-maker (5905088)
- 2.30 *CHOICE* *Flamingowatch* (s) (941246)
- 2.45 *Myths and Legends* Garry Rice examines myths and legends of the North Wales area (s) (940440)
- 3.00 *News* (CeeFax) and weather followed by *Westminster with Nick Brown* (CeeFax) (8512158) 3.50 *News* (CeeFax) and weather (3248178)
- 4.00 *Today's the Day* Recent history quiz (s) (1)
- 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (s) (5)
- 5.00 *Play It Again, Paul* John introduces big band music featuring Dan O'Grady, John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, Richard Claydon and James Last, Helen Shapiro and the BBC Big Band (s) (3401)
- 5.30 *European Figure Skating Championships* from Dortmund, Germany (97)
- 6.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* The first of a two-part adventure (CeeFax) (s) (332159)
- 6.45 *Flamingowatch* (s) (951642)
- 7.00 *The World at War* (s) (CeeFax) (77721)
- 8.00 *Rhodes around Britain* Garry Rhodes samples Aberdeen cuisine (s) (CeeFax) (s) (2913)
- 8.30 *University Challenge* Robinson College, Cambridge, v the University of Liverpool (CeeFax) (s) (1420)
- 9.00 *FILM: Desperate for Love* (1989) starring Christian Slater, Tammy Lauren and Brian Blosil. Drama about two high school friends who fall out over a girl. Directed by Michael Tuchner (CeeFax) (3388)
- 10.30 *Newsnight* (CeeFax) (507158)
- 11.15 *The Late Show* An interview with John Berger (s) (485823) 11.55 *Weather* (849197)
- 12.00 *News* followed by *The Midnight Hour* A review of the day's political news (7208565) 12.55am *Close*
- 2.00 *Night Show: History File* (70227)
- 4.00-4.15 *BBC Select: Benefits Agency Today* (35314260)



Chris Packham in Kenya (2.30pm and 6.45pm)

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These can be used with a video recorder to find out more about the programme. To find out more about the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCode section on page 42. For more information on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCode section on page 42.

CHOICE

- ER Channel 4, 9.00pm
The cryptic title stands for Emergency Room in a Chicago-style drama which will surely be seen as the American *Lawman*. There is a similar focus on stretched and stressed medics and the woes of patients rushed in for treatment. The pace is even quicker than in the British show, with much hand-held camerawork and doctors speaking at what seems like 300 words a minute. There is, too, a more fluid and varied structure, with incident following incident in random order. Not all the patients survive, but humour keeps breaking in, as when little Jimmy swallows the door key and locks mum out of the house. The show was created by Michael Crichton, author of *Jurassic Park*. He also supplies the snappy dialogue.
- Thief Takers ITV, 9.00pm
Viewers with longish memories may feel that television's newest cops-and-villains drama is an old one recycled. We are back with the Metropolitan Police Flying Squad, which under the nickname of the Sweeney provided John Thaw and Dennis Waterman with some of their finest hours in the 1970s. There is nobody of their dazzy this time and the emphasis is in this well-made, if slightly impersonal, pilot, is on the team rather than individuals. But the main ingredient is the same: thugs who look and behave exactly like the criminals they are trying to catch. The team advance in on the race and gender front. The Thaw-Waterman Sweeney was exclusively white and male. The 1995 version includes a black and a woman.
- The Private Life of Plants BBC1, 9.30pm
Sir David Attenborough's series has made a speciality of audience-grabbing openings but this latest is the strongest so far. In some dark and eerie forest howling winds are tearing trees out by the roots and sending the trunks crashing to the ground. It is October 16, 1987 and the greatest British hurricane of modern times is devastating woodlands that have stood for centuries. But there is a positive side. The fallen trees open up shafts of light and seeds that have lain dormant in the soil can suddenly germinate. In what Attenborough calls the "social struggle" this new growth competes for territory. Other natural disasters, such as fire and drought, are used to demonstrate how plants can make the best of what appears to be a bad job.

Flamingowatch BBC2, 2.30pm and 6.45pm
The cameras of the BBC Natural History Unit are in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya to bring five days of live broadcasts as millions of pink flamingoes gather at three bitter soda lakes. At least that is the plan, but the flamingo population is notoriously unpredictable and it takes only changes in weather and food stocks to cause flocks to move away. To avoid the risk of human disturbance, a remote-controlled camera will drift out onto the lake in a boat disguised as, yes, a flamingo. Simon King, Chris Packham and Jonathan Scott provide the commentary and if the flamingoes do fail to show there should be plenty of other wildlife, including pelicans, leopards, hippos and, perhaps, the elusive black rhino. Peter Waymark

Guest appearance by Jimmy Nail (8.00pm)

CARLTON

- 6.00 GMTV (1090255)
- 9.25 *Chain Letters* Ted Roberts presents the word game (1250446) 9.55 *London Today* (Telex) and weather (2582120)
- 10.00 *The Time... the Place* (s) (4461397)
- 10.35 *This Morning* Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan present the weekly quiz magazine (9478327)
- 12.20pm *London Today* (Telex) and weather (1472924)
- 12.30 *ITN Lunchtime News* (Telex) and weather (4366401)
- 12.55 *Coronation Street* (s) (Telex) (4374420)
- 1.25 *Home and Away* Australian family drama series (Telex) (6193025)
- 1.55 *Capital News* with Anneka Rice (s) (9257615)
- 2.25 *A Country Practice* (s) (6134125) 2.25 *Blue Heelers* (s) (618825)
- 3.20 *ITN News headlines* (Telex) (7810710) 3.25 *London Today* (Telex) and weather (7819081)
- 3.30 *Alphabet Castle* (s) (991599) 3.40 (s) (s) *Wizards* (329420) 3.50 *Scoby Doo* (7979888)
- 4.15 *Reboot* (s) (683632) 4.40 *The Tomorrow People* (Telex) (3282410)
- 5.10 *After 5* (Telex) (5736552) Followed by *The Missing File*
- 5.40 *ITN Early Evening News* (Telex) and weather (795807)
- 5.55 *You Shout* The public air their views (609517)
- 6.00 *Home and Away* (s) (Telex) (46)
- 6.30 *London Tonight* (Telex) and weather (6)
- 7.00 *Talking Telephone Numbers* Game show The guests include Oliva Newton-John (s) (5361)
- 7.30 *Coronation Street* (Telex) (10)
- 8.00 *Des O'Connor Tonight* The guests include Jimmy Nail, Jethro, Vanessa-Mae and Chris Barrie (s) (2246)
- 9.00 *CHOICE* *The Thief Takers: Cash and Carry* (Telex) (5710)
- 10.00 *News at Ten* (Telex) and weather (91884)
- 10.30 *London Tonight* (Telex) and weather (260248)
- 10.40 *Carlton Sport* Arsenal v AC Milan at Highbury. Bob Wilson introduces highlights from tonight's first leg of the European Super Cup game with commentary from Brian Moore (257517)
- 11.40 *Magnum* Magnum acts as bodyguard to a world-famous ballerina, with Tom Selleck (573532)
- 12.40am *Alien Nation: Fountain of Youth* Fantastic series about an alien working with the Los Angeles police (s) (7203581)
- 1.35 *Hollywood Report* Showbusiness gossip (s) (147868)
- 2.05 *The Best of It* (s) (610558)
- 2.05 *The Album Show* (s) (8659821)
- 4.05 *Donahue* Phil Donahue talks to two men who offer out extensive research into the experience of pregnancy (764364)
- 4.55 *The Time... the Place* (s) (6394550)
- 5.30 *ITN Morning News* (65596)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 *Once Upon A Time — Life* An animated series exploring the human body (s) (8401604)
- 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (95710)
- 9.00 *You Bet Your Life* (s) (13081)
- 9.30 *Schools* Living and Growing (957888) 9.46 *Talk, Vibe and Read* (957723) 10.02 *Stage Two Science* (6374739) 10.18 *Mind Your Own Business* (6353245) 10.40 *Living with Technology* (1238583) 10.55 *Film and Video Showcase* (6736044) 11.05 *Encyclopaedia Galactica* (9963449) 11.15 *The Music Show* (234494) 11.25 *Rata-Tat-Tat* (3609772) 11.45 *First Edition* (3657555)
- 12.00 *House to House* Mary Evans presents the political magazine series (41307)
- 12.30 *Sesame Street* Entertaining pre-school learning series (86178) 1.30 *Take 5* featuring Paddington, Fred Bassett, Mic and Mac, The Magic Roundabout and Tower (s) (41352)
- 2.00 *The Trumpeter* Polish animation (5905420)
- 2.15 *FILM: My First Love* (1986) starring Beatrice Arthur and Richard Kiley. A made-for-television romantic comedy about a widow who renews her close friendship with the man she first went out with 35 years ago. Directed by Gail Parent (865533)
- 4.00 *Journeymen* In the fifth of his 16-part series Clive Gurnell travels along the Kennet and Avon Canal to Pavey in Wiltshire. (Telex) (s) (9)
- 4.30 *Countdown* Another round of the words and numbers game presented by Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman (Telex) (s) (23)
- 5.00 *Ricki Lake* The guests are young people trying to play cupid for their single parent. (Telex) (s) (7126710)
- 5.50 *Terraviva* Classic cartoons (622468)
- 6.00 *The Crystal Maze* Game show presented by Ed Tudor-Pole (s) (Telex) (s) (2772)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* (Telex) and weather (547449)
- 7.30 *The Slot* Viewer access series (507265)
- 8.00 *Travelog* Pete McCarthy reports from northern Sweden and Brian Sewell is in Pakistan. (Telex) (s) (7081)
- 8.30 *Brookside* Mandy and Sinbad wonder if Rachel will spill the beans after she is picked up by the police. (Telex) (s) (3868)
- 9.00 *CHOICE* *ER* (Telex) (s) (4498772)
- 10.40 *Rory Bremner's Christmas Turkey* Comedy sketches. With John Bird, John Fortune, Sheila Hancock and Annette Crosbie (s) (255159)
- 11.40 *Moviewatch* Includes reviews of the latest releases by cinemagoers in Hull (s) (s) (170449)
- 12.15am *LA Law* American courtroom drama series (s) (7236579)
- 1.10 *The Jazz Age* The second of two programmes about New York's jazz clubs (s) (s) (1656734)
- 2.15 *FILM: Clive of India* (1934, b/w) starring Ronald Colman. A biopic of the British Empire-builder Robert Clive. With Lonnie Young. Directed by Richard Boleslawski (360014) Ends at 3.50



Cutting drama in a Chicago hospital (9.00pm)

VARIATIONS

- ENGLIA**
As London except: 9.55am-10.00am *Anglia News* (2502132) 12.20pm-12.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (5287246) 2.55-3.00 *Blockbusters* (818825) 3.55-4.00 *News* and weather (7566284) 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (7566284) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.00-7.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.15-1.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.30-1.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.45-2.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.00-2.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.15-2.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.30-2.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.45-3.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.00-3.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.15-3.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.30-3.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.45-4.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.00-4.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.15-4.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.30-4.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.45-5.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.00-5.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.15-5.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.30-5.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.45-6.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.00-6.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.15-6.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.30-6.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.45-7.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.00-7.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.15-7.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.15-1.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.30-1.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.45-2.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.00-2.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.15-2.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.30-2.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.45-3.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.00-3.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.15-3.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.30-3.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 3.45-4.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.00-4.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.15-4.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.30-4.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 4.45-5.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.00-5.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.15-5.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.30-5.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 5.45-6.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.00-6.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.15-6.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.30-6.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 6.45-7.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.00-7.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.15-7.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.15-1.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.30-1.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 1.45-2.00 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.00-2.15 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.15-2.30 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.30-2.45 *Anglia News* (1447994) 2.45-3.00 *Anglia News*

As football honours a legend, Highbury stages a match that does his sport little credit

Magician still weaving his spell

David Miller pays tribute to the
timeless skill and sportsmanship
of Sir Stanley Matthews, 80 today

Johnny Carey, the former captain of Manchester United and Ireland, once said: "Playing Stanley is like playing against a ghost." Today, the ghost is 80, still spiky and lean and wondering, with that strange, detached modesty, what all the fuss was about. Stanley Matthews, the only footballer ever likely to be knighted while still playing, never properly understood his fame, nor the affection in which he was held throughout the land and far abroad.



'He is symbolic of the beauty of the game... a magical player, of the people, for the people'

— From the inscription on the statue of Matthews

home town of Stoke tonight, among them the inimitable Ferenc Puskas, from Hungary, Ladislav Kubala, from Spain, and Branko Stankovic, from Yugoslavia, former foes and lifelong admirers.

This celebration of a unique life, of a player who took the bus to the ground together with his followers, who was never cautioned, stands in contrast to a game today besieged by violence, greed and withered sportsmanship. Across three decades, Matthews brought to football an aura of unprecedented glamour. Yet he himself, in the words of Arthur Hopcraft, the celebrated author "was the opposite of glamorous, brought up among thrift and the threat of debt and debt". The unqualified devotion of the British public, which flocked to see him, before the age of television, in tens of thousands, lay in his seeming frailty and his magician's spell over the opposing full back.

This unassuming genius

brought a sense of freedom and adventure, satisfying a common public yearning for simple pleasure. At his best, he was unplayable by fair means. Such was the esteem in which he was held by opponents that few descended into the expedient fouling which has intimidated the genius of later players such as Best and Maradona.

Sir Walter Winterbottom, the first England team manager, said Matthews was "without parallel, the matador goading and provoking... it was extraordinary how he could get the ball to float". Stanley Mortensen, Matthews' acclaimed partner at Blackpool, eulogised his qualities: "Fitness, balance, confidence, pace over ten yards, body-swerve, instantaneous control, two footed, marvellous temperament."

Geoffrey Green, the former football correspondent of *The Times*, who witnessed the golden international eras before and after the Second World War through to the Seventies, called Matthews "the greatest dribbler, the most superb ball-manipulator in the history of the game", and Green had seen them all. Jimmy Seed, the manager of Charlton Athletic's FA Cup Final teams of 1946 and 1947, said: "His feet are the greatest entertainment that football has known."

Matthews transcended ordinary football in a way none have ever done, not even Di Stefano, Pelé, Cruyff or Maradona. A mythology grew around him. Many of the record attendances in Britain were established when he was present. 84,569 at Maine Road, Manchester, 149,547 at Hampden Park. The week before he returned to Stoke City from Blackpool, in 1961, aged 46, the attendance had been 8,400. For his reappearance, against Huddersfield Town, it jumped to 35,000.

In his message of goodwill today, João Havelange, the president of Fifa, the world governing body, says: "Within the exalted company of elite personalities regarded on a plane superior to all others, foremost among these, for his ability and sportsmanship, shall always be Sir Stanley Matthews."

Matthews had not one career, but three: pre-war — probably his peak — war-time and post-war, the last the more astonishing because of his age. He first played for England at 19, against Wales in 1934, the last time against Denmark in a World Cup qualifier, aged 42, in 1957. Repeatedly discarded by vacillating selectors, his 54 caps — plus 30 war-time — should have been 154. Tom Finney, his friend and rival, said he ought to have been included in the squad for the 1958 World Cup finals.

The trance in which he could hold opposing full backs was bewitching. The *Daily Mirror* reported, in terms of thousands, lay in his seeming frailty and his magician's spell over the opposing full back.



Sir Stanley Matthews, a modest wizard of the wing whose birthday celebrations have evoked memories of a glorious career

England beat West Germany, then the recent World Cup winners, at Wembley. Matthews so mesmerised Kohlmeier that the crowd of 80,000 repeatedly laughed out loud. Like many before, Kohlmeier's confidence was destroyed, and he never played for Germany again.

Two years later, aged 41, Matthews dismantled Nilton Santos, the Brazil captain and regarded as the world's best left back, in a dazzling 4-2 victory at Wembley.

It was not uncommon for some moment of wizardry, resulting in a colleague's goal, to be openly applauded by the opposition, as when England beat Scotland 8-0 in 1943 — "our best team", Bill Shankly said — and Belgium 5-3 in

1947. For the maestro, there was little pleasure in scoring goals, only in making them. As Nat Lofthouse, the Bolton Wanderers and England centre forward, observed: "He nearly always went to the line, so you were never offside."

When Matthews, at his

third attempt, won an FA Cup winner's medal in Blackpool's 4-3 defeat of Bolton, in 1953. Lofthouse reflected on the final dramatic minutes: "I spent the time just watching Stanley. He stood there, toes turned inwards, looking like a little old man — until he moved. In that

final spell he could do it, and he knew he could do it."

After eventual retirement, having played his last match for Stoke at 50 — "too early", he thought — he devoted himself to coaching. Briefly, he was manager at Port Vale, and in the Seventies, revered for his work in Soweto, he took the first all-black South African team on tour to Brazil.

The inscription on the statue by Colin Melbourn erected in Hanley in 1987 reflects the legacy from Sir Stanley Matthews to all sport: "His name is symbolic of the beauty of the game, his fame timeless and international, his sportsmanship and modesty universally acclaimed. A magical player, of the people, for the people."

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS

1915: Born Hanley, February 1.
1928: Joined Stoke at age of 14, sweeping dressing-rooms and charged with cleaning 46 pairs of boots.
1934: First England cap, against Wales, aged 19 years and 340 days.
1948: Footballer of the year, transferred to Blackpool for £11,500.
1953: The Matthews Final. Blackpool beat Bolton 4-3.
1957: Wins 54th and final England cap against Denmark in World Cup qualifier in Copenhagen, aged 42 years and 103 days; European footballer of the year.
1961: Returns to Stoke in £2,500 deal.
1965: Awarded a knighthood while still active; plays against Fulham aged 50 years and five days then retires after 710 Football League games for Stoke and Blackpool. Becomes manager of Port Vale.
1967: Leaves Port Vale and embarks on role as roving ambassador for football.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 384

ACROSS

- 5 Quite a tidy sum (1,6,5)
- 8 Curtain-rail cover (6)
- 9 Yearn ambitiously (6)
- 10 Distortion (in pattern of statistics) (4)
- 12 More wild, unrestrained (7)
- 14 Smallest amount (7)
- 15 Forearm bone (4)
- 17 Vegetable; emerge from seed (6)
- 18 Dissimilar (6)
- 20 Integration: thorough learning (12)

DOWN

- 1 Writ against unlawful detention (6,6)
- 2 Formidably stern (4)
- 3 Of motive force; energetic (7)
- 4 Of time; secular; of the side of the head (8)
- 6 Dancer's frilly skirt (4)
- 7 Harrowingly tense (5-7)
- 11 Occurring at (irregular) intervals (8)
- 13 Uphold (7)
- 16 Insect stage inside chrysalis (4)
- 19 Lower back (cut of meat) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 383

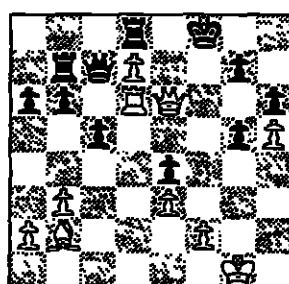
ACROSS: 1 Fight back. 6 Bib. 8 Canon. 9 Footage. 10 Critic. 12 Kudos. 13 Vulgar. 14 Hot rod. 17 Blank. 19 Innate. 21 Ambient. 22 Hairy. 23 Toe. 24 Synagogue.

DOWN: 1 Face. 2 General. 3 Tan. 4 Affect. 5 Knock down. 6 Bland. 7 Blessed. 11 Thankless. 13 Vibrant. 15 Reprising. 16 Milton. 18 Ambie. 20 Dyke. 22 Hug.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Alterman - Matlak, Moscow Olympiad, 1995. The passed White d-pawn on d7 serves the useful function of cutting off the Black major pieces from the defence of his king. Can you see how White cashed in?



Solution, page 39
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

KISSEL

- a. A door-stop
- b. A sweet
- c. The common people

MALLAM

- a. The beach
- b. An Indonesian language
- c. A scribble

MURUS GALLICUS

- a. The French shrewmouse
- b. A sticky sweetmeat
- c. A fort

KOTARE

- a. Indentured labour
- b. A fruit drink
- c. A kingfisher

Answers on page 39

Opportunism
knocks loud
in Super Cup

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHAT have we done to the White Knight's game? Later today, at Highbury, a full house of 39,000 is expected to gather for the spuriously prestigious encounter of the first leg of the European Super Cup, between Arsenal and AC Milan.

These are teams, albeit the champions and the Cup Winner's Cup holders of Europe, who glorify in the banality of what is called "the pressing game". For that, read depressing. Arsenal and Milan, who score barely a goal every 90 minutes, are built on squeezing charisma, freedom, space and spontaneity out of their opponents. Sir Stanley would have been sent off down the channels.

Worse, the match tonight appears to be the can of all worms. Milan come here in a week in which most of the sporting fixtures in their country next Sunday have been suspended after a Genoa supporter was knifed to death last Sunday; and so, for the first time since the Second World War, not a ball will be kicked in Italy.

Nevertheless, Milan come to London. This club, at whose ground two policemen and 16 supporters were hurt during the previous home game, which was banned from playing a European Cup Champions' League match at home after a visiting goalkeeper was concussed by a bottle, will bring 800 supporters, and by its own admission 200 of them are "ultras", hard core fanatics who get involved in violence.

The youth arrested for stabbing his victim five times last Sunday was purportedly a member of the Barbour Boys — a gang of hoodlums who dress in English green country waxed jackets, their cover and their style for thuggery. They will meet, we are assured, the thoroughness of policing and stewarding to which England has, of necessity, become accustomed, stewarding which could not prevent the kung fu antics of Eric Cantona in London a week ago.

However, the match is about profit and opportunism. Arsenal will include Ian Wright before his four-match

suspension, imposed for his record of 12 yellow cards in 28 games. They may, if their request is granted by the Football Association, include Paul Merson, who we are now told has lost weight and shed the additions to alcohol and gambling, as well as his use of cocaine.

There will be a verdict from Lancaster Gate on that this morning. But Tony Adams, whose absence was due to Achilles' heel surgery, will apparently play. Meanwhile, we wait to see whether Milan include four players, among them the mercurial Montenegro, Savicevic, all of whom are hoping to use this two-leg competition to avoid suspensions in European Cup games later this season.

With or without them, Milan are unbeaten over nine games. They have shaken out

Martin relieved 40
Diary 14

the tiredness and disappointment of Italy's near miss at the World Cup, and gone is the complacency that may cost them a fifth successive Italian championship.

Waiting for them is the Highbury set. The ground now is something more splendid than anything Sir Stanley ever set foot in. The naming in parliament of George Graham, the Arsenal manager, is also something unheard of in the time graced by the White Knight.

But behind this match of ultra professionalism, behind the prospect of two teams that know how to win without actually pursuing the purpose of public entertainment, one wonders about the very purpose of sport at this level, in these times. The English will have Heysel on their consciences forever; but it should not be forgotten that Italians were the main victims of that catastrophe, and it is a man of Milan, Ottavio Bianchi, the coach to the other Milanese team, Internazionale, who put into words the feeling of football folk worldwide. "Compared to life," he asked, "what is a game?" What indeed, one game or a thousand?

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£10,000	94.80	116.03	139.89	219.30
£5,000	47.40	58.02	69.94	109.65

* Typical example - Standard Repayment - borrow £5,000 over 5 years - you make 60 monthly payments of £109.65 - total amount repayable £6579.00 reduced on early settlement APR 11.9% (variable)

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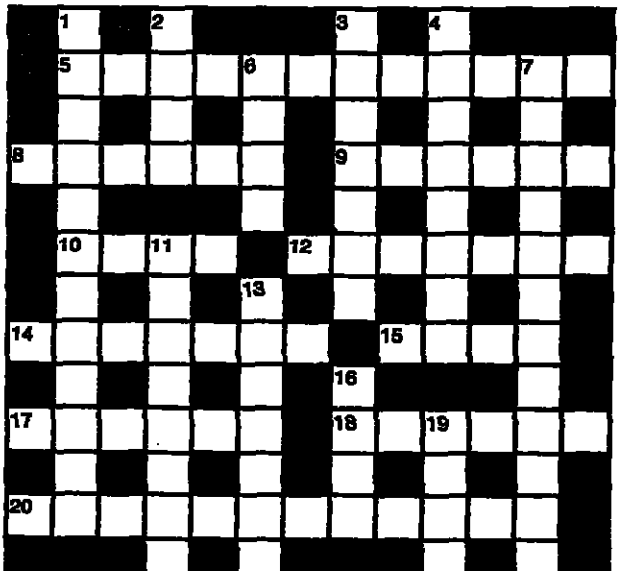
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